Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 1982-83

Saskatchewan Agriculture

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Seventy-eighth Annual Report for the twelve months ended March 31, 1983

Regina, Saskatchewan
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1983

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Government of
Saskatchewan

Department of Agriculture

To His Honour,
The Honourable Frederick W. Johnson,
Lieutenant Governor of the Province of
Saskatchewan

Sir:

I have the honour to submit the annual report of Saskatchewan Agriculture for the twelve months ending March 31, 1983.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Berntson,
Minister of Agriculture

Report of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture

Honourable Eric Berntson,
Minister of Agriculture
Province of Saskatchewan

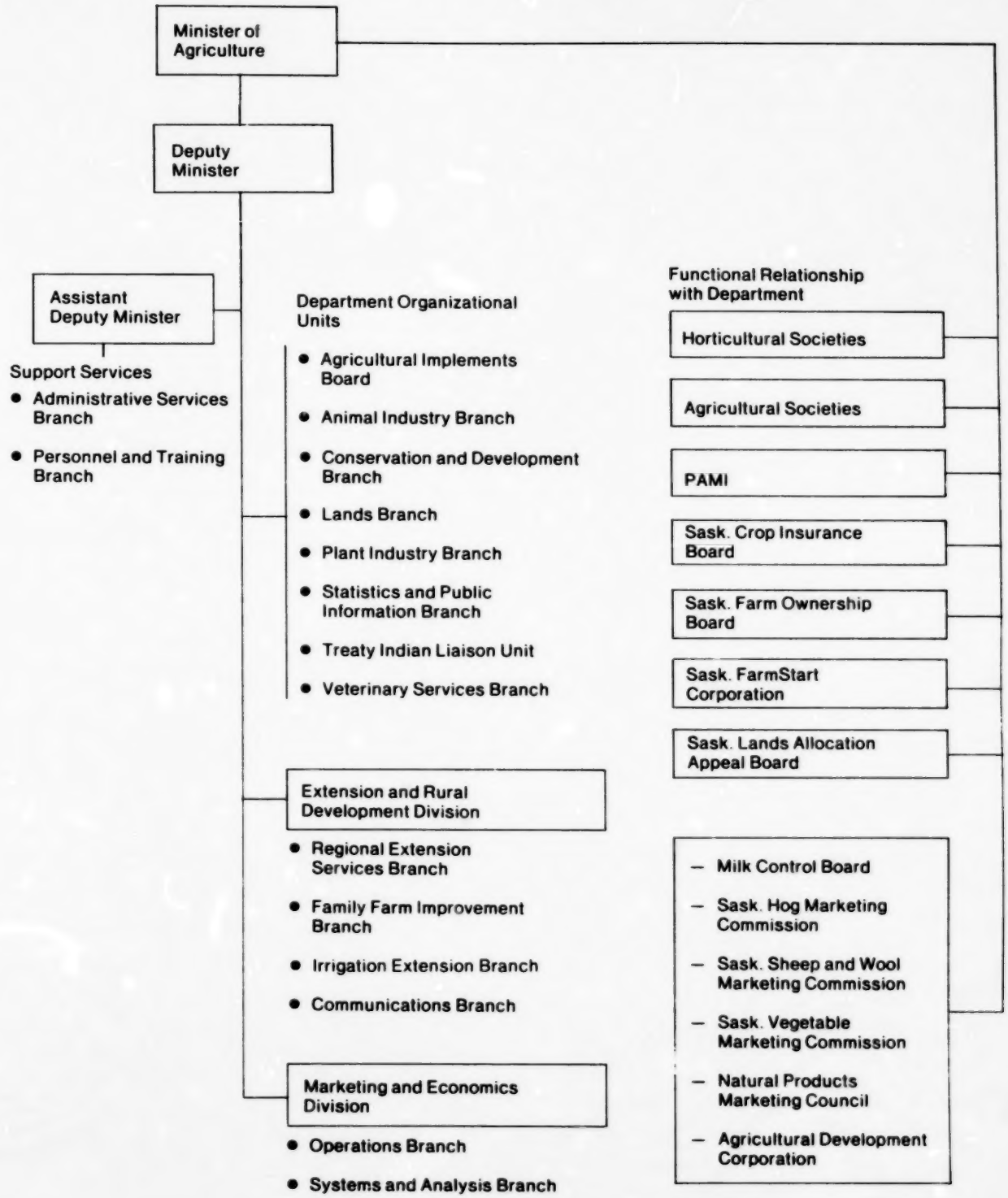
Sir:

I wish to present to you the annual report of Saskatchewan Agriculture for the twelve months ending March 31, 1983.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Drew,
Deputy Minister

Saskatchewan Agriculture Organization Chart (1982-83)



Administrative Services Branch

"Administrative Services provides department support services in budgeting and accounting, space and accommodation, equipment and supplies, computer management, and administrative analysis.

I. Financial Services

Services were provided for the preparation and maintenance of expenditure payment vouchers, revenue receipts, and the reporting and forecasting of department revenues and expenditures. Approximately 30,000 expenditure vouchers were processed during the year, which was a reduction of approximately 10,000 vouchers from the previous year. This can be attributed to the conclusion of the Drought Assistance Program. The co-ordination and documentation of financial data for the department year end statements and the maintenance of budget and expenditure control systems were also major requirements throughout the year.

The managerial responsibilities of the Agricultural Supplies Advance Account and the Drought Relief office were turned over to the Financial Services division during the 1982-83 fiscal year. New administrative and financial systems were designed and implemented for the Agricultural Supplies Advance Account.

The Expenditure Payment and Reporting System continued to provide program managers with information on branch expenditures. Assistance was provided in the administration of the Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund, Horned Cattle Trust Fund, and the Cattle Marketing Voluntary Deductions Act Trust Fund. Administrative functions were also performed for the Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation during 1982-83.

Co-ordination of the development and approval of financial systems for the new programs and policies implemented in the department such as the Farm Purchase Program was provided throughout the year. Streamlined procedures for grant payments were designed and implemented.

Liaison was maintained with the Internal Audit Division of the Comptrollers Office to ensure that financial procedural requirements were met. Liaison was also maintained with the Provincial Auditor to ensure that proper procedures in recording costs and revenues were followed with respect to internal control requirements.

Cost-sharing program claims were prepared for the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Program and the Agricultural Employment Agreement. Claims under the Productivity Enhancement and Technology Transfer and Qu'Appelle Implementation Agreements were also monitored and co-ordinated with respect to cost-sharing provisions, along with other smaller agreements.

II. Office Services

Services were provided for co-ordination and allocation of department space and accommodation. The Department of Government Services provided the department with new space in Shellbrook and Shaunavon. New space is being planned for Kamsack, Wakaw, Rosetown and Lloydminster.

Co-ordination was provided for department budget preparation and acquisition of equipment, stationery and office supplies. The branch continues to provide central department mail delivery and central photocopying systems. The branch also co-ordinates the department's Central Vehicle Agency fleet as well as the photocopying equipment.

The branch continues to maintain the Computerized Inventory System which replaced the manual recording of the departmental fixed asset transactions.

Staff worked closely with the PMIS Unit and the Budget Bureau in Saskatchewan Finance to co-ordinate the department budget preparation and review process.

III. Systems Services

Services were provided to co-ordinate the design, development and/or operation of 42 computer based systems within the department. This service included the rationalization and acquisition of systems resources such as analyst services and computer services.

The data entry unit provided keying services for 22 computer systems involving 86 subsystems. Remote job entry services which involves the transmission and receiving of processed records were provided for 20 systems. The dial up remote job entry capability to McDonald College located in Montreal was facilitated through establishing communications with Datapac.

The initial phase of the department office system known as the Agricultural Information Delivery System was implemented. This multi-functional system utilizing modern technologies was installed in Marketing and Economics Division, Communications Branch, Statistics Branch and Family Farm Improvement Branch. System proposals were developed which supported the extension of the system to four additional branches.

A pilot study was initiated to evaluate the use of portable microcomputers at the field level using software developed by head office specialists.

The department participated in SaskTel's Pathfinder Project which is a videotext pilot study. This technology has considerable potential to augment the extension services of the department.

In general the department continued its pursuit of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the program delivery through the utilization of modern computer driven technologies.

IV. Grant Administration

Administrative Services managed the following grant programs included in the "Assistance to General Agricultural Interests" allocation for the department.

1. Grants to Agricultural and Horticultural Societies — Grants of $1,650 were provided to the Agricultural Societies Association and the Horticultural Societies Association to assist in their operating costs.

   The Grant Program for Exhibition Assor iations and Agricultural and Horticultural Societies provided for reimbursement of up to 50% of the operating costs incurred by these organizations to a maximum of $5,000 for Class "C" fairs, $10,000 for Class "B" fairs and $1,000 for Horticultural Societies. Grants paid in 1982-83 totalled $316,570 compared to $265,000 in 1981-82.

2. Grants to Sponsors of Horse Race Meets — Assistance was also provided for horse racing through the rebate of 80% of parimutuel tax paid by race meet sponsors. A total of $1,598,216 was made in grant payments under this program in 1982-83 compared to $1,527,998 in 1981-82.

Close liaison was maintained with the Extension Division, University of Saskatchewan with respect to the processing of grant payments and the evaluation of the policies. The Director of Administrative Services Branch represented the department on the Saskatchewan Agricultural Association board of directors.

Personnel and Training Branch

"The Personnel and Training Branch provides the department with staffing, classification, staff relations, training and development, and payroll services. It also provides policy direction and guidance for administration and management of personnel to both the department and its associated agencies."

1. Administration

The Personnel and Training Branch continued to develop a number of procedural changes, in order to streamline personnel services, both internally and for the rest of the department.

2. Staffing

During the fiscal year 1982-83 the staffing unit co-ordinated 93 competitions, comprised of 46 professional, 13 technical and 34 clerical. In addition, the staffing unit assisted management in recruiting casual and temporary employees to meet ongoing program needs. Total staffing actions in 1982-83 were 250. In addition, the department had 50 Labour Service positions converted to permanent positions.

The department recruited 3 newly-graduated Agrologists. For the first few months of their employment these new Agrologists were assigned to Regional Co-ordinators where they were provided with a broad understanding of the functions and duties of our various branches; after this training period they were placed in vacant professional positions.

3. Classification

There were 81 requests for classification review in the permanent classified service this year, and two requests for classification review in the labour service. In addition, 10 new labour service positions were received for initial classification.

The mandate of the Agrologist Committee was updated and a number of new appointments were made to the Committee.

Personnel and Training also continued to assist the Hog Marketing Commission and the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation in their classification reviews.

4. Staff Relations

This branch again provided expertise and assistance to the Saskatchewan Hog Marketing Commission and the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation in negotiating with the Saskatchewan Government Employees' Union (S.G.E.U.). In addition, this branch co-ordinated the management proposals and liaised with the Public Service Commission in regard to the Collective Agreement that covers the employees in the department.

5. Training and Development

Training and development of employees is an ongoing program in the department. This year, secretarial effectiveness has been continued by the attendance of all typists at the "Today's Secretary" course.

Each year the Public Service Commission offers courses in special skills such as leadership, effective writing, and managing a small work unit. In 1982-83, 73 department employees participated, representing 17 per cent of total permanent staff. Also, approximately 225 employees attended in-house training courses.

Exploratory talks were continued with the Public Service Commission and some work has been done with a view to establishing a manpower plan for the Department of Agriculture. In conjunction with the Public Service Commission, some work has been done to initiate a pilot project on performance appraisals, which is a necessary part of manpower planning.

A 3-day "Extension Program Planning & Implementation" course for Regional Extension Services Branch staff was held during the year. 24 staff attended. The course was intended primarily for younger staff with about one to six years experience.

Staff from Personnel and Training Branch actively participated in a 2-day Crop Insurance seminar and presented a communication package to approximately 80 employees in attendance.

Two employees in Personnel and Training have taken an advanced course in the operation of word processors, and are now instructing employees in the department.

The publication of "Personal Development Notes" was continued. It is an ongoing series of short articles on various aspects of training and development. Approximately 500 copies of each article are distributed to staff in the department and its agencies.

6. Payroll

The integrated payroll service is functioning well. Consolidation of this service involves full pay benefits record keeping, pay benefits calculations and information services regarding staff entitlements.

Agricultural Implements Board

"The Agricultural Implements Board works to improve the availability of repair parts and service for agricultural implements."

During the year 131 distributors were registered in Saskatchewan, representing 236 manufacturers. Inspection of 151 distributors' facilities and 1,030 dealers' facilities were completed. There were 854 licenced dealers at year end. Fifty-nine new dealers were licenced and 31 licences terminated during the year.

A total of 194 complaints regarding agricultural implements were received from farmers, dealers and distributors. As well, 764 information calls were handled by the office.

As in previous years, surveys of the major parts depots in Saskatchewan indicated a fill rate of 88 to 90 per cent on parts orders. The major problem in parts supply therefore occurs with about 10 per cent of the required items. Transportation and customs facilities are also a problem. Nine applications for compensation were received by the Board. Two awards were made for a total of $3,456.

Farmer purchases of new implements were lower than previous years. This is a reflection of high interest rates and the uncertainties faced by farmers such as grain prices and markets for grain production plus the depressed livestock market.

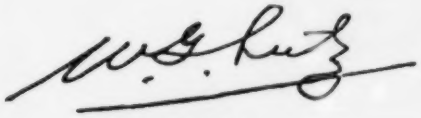
Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund

Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly
Province of Saskatchewan

I have examined the balance sheet of the Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund as at March 31, 1983 and the statement of revenue, expenditure and reserve fund for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund as at March 31, 1983 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Regina, Saskatchewan,
July 8, 1983

W. G. Lutz, F.C.A.,
Provincial Auditor.

Statement 1

Balance Sheet
March 31, 1983

	1983	1982
Assets		
Cash	$ 10,156	$ 11,520
Short term investments, at cost (approximates market (Schedule 1)	47,945	44,402
Accrued interest	908	309
	$ 59,009	$ 56,231
Liabilities and Reserve Fund		
Accounts payable	$ 1,862	$ 3,311
Reserve fund	57,147	52,920
	$ 59,009	$ 56,231

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement 2

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Reserve Fund
Year Ended March 31, 1983

	1983	1982
Revenue:		
General assessment	$ 5,589	$ 5,234
Investment interest	6,501	8,715
	12,090	13,949
Expenditure:		
Compensation payments	3,456	4,383
Investigation and hearing claims (Schedule 2)	4,407	7,014
	7,863	11,397
Excess of revenue over expenditure	4,227	2,552
Reserve Fund, beginning of year	52,920	50,368
Reserve Fund, end of year	$ 57,147	$ 52,920

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 1983

1. Administration Costs

In accordance with Section 52, The Agricultural Implements Act all sums required for the purposes of this Act are paid by the Department of Agriculture from monies appropriated by the Legislature for such purposes and these costs are not reflected in these financial statements.

Schedule 1

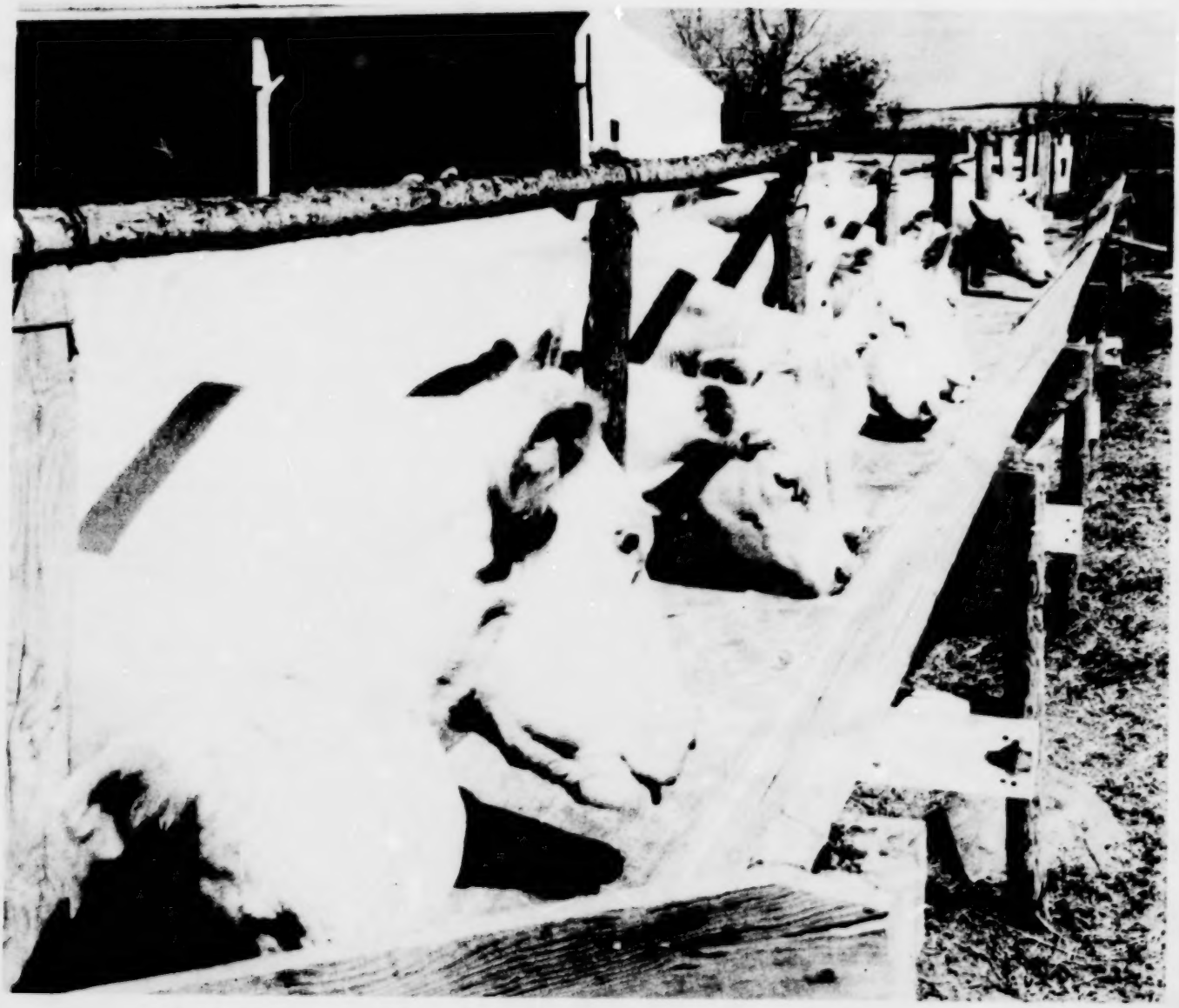
Schedule of Investment Securities
March 31, 1983

Security	Balance April 1, 1982	Additions	Disposals	Balance March 31, 1983
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Wood Gundy Ltd., Purchased Hong Kong Bank Bearer Discount Note, maturing April 15, 1982 @ 15.85%	$ 44,402		$ 44,402	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Bell Govinlock Ltd., Purchased Dupont Ltd, Purchased Dupont Promissory Note, maturing May 20, 1982 @ 15.60%		$ 49,263	49,263	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Merril Lynch Royal Securities, Purchased a $50,000 Royal Bank Banker's Acceptance Paper, maturing August 17, 1982 @ 15.50%		48,179	48,179	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Welwyn Stodgell-Cochran Murray Ltd., Purchased a $50,000 Bank of Tokyo Bearer Discount Note, Maturing November 16, 1982 @ 15.10%		48,186	48,186	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Richardson Greenshields of Canada Purchased, Mercantile Bank Bankers Acceptances, maturing January 18, 1983 @ 11.0%		49,068	49,068	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Mercantile Bank of Canada, Purchased Mercantile Bank Bearer Discount Note, maturing June 30, 1983 @ 9.60%		47,945		$ 47,945
	$ 44,402	$ 242,641	$ 239,098	$ 47,945

Schedule 2

Schedule of Investigation and Hearing Claims Expense
Year Ended March 31, 1983

	1983	1982
Investigation	$3,119	$3,201
Board of Directors	1,163	3,408
Rental	125	79
Miscellaneous	—	326
Total Investigation and Hearing Claims Expense (to Statement 2)	$4,407	$7,014



Animal Industry Branch

"The Animal Industry Branch encourages the development of an efficient livestock industry through its production programs and regulatory services."

Extension, consultant and supervisory services are provided by branch specialists, livestock technicians and livestock inspectors for the benefit of farmers and the livestock industry. Liaison is maintained with research personnel in industry, universities, Agriculture Canada and livestock organizations.

The Dairy Quality Unit is testing for protein and somatic cell count on all 140,000 milk samples; 650 special quality tests are being performed to ensure quality of raw milk and the processed product.

Nearly 1.2 million head of livestock were inspected and the data was processed for verification of ownership by staff in the Livestock Inspection and Data Processing Unit. The unit also assists R.C.M.P. members, livestock inspectors and herd owners in locating missing and stolen cattle. In 1982-83, 512 searches were conducted for missing animals.

Under the Animal Identification Act, 29,286 brands were allocated, 580 new brands were issued, 5,227 renewed and 274 transferred.

The number of licenced artificial insemination technicians operating in Saskatchewan on March 31, 1983 was 147, which is six less than in 1982. The number of first services reported by licensed A.I. technicians has increased to 19,305.

One swine A.I. course and eight, week long courses on reproduction and artificial insemination of cattle were held at various locations in the province. One hundred and sixty-eight enrollees completed training courses this year compared to 100 last year. Over 80 percent of the students were from beef enterprises. This is a shift from previous years when beef and dairy participation were roughly equal. Five trials to demonstrate reproductive efficiency were conducted.

The Reproductive Research Trust, which is a joint venture between the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Agdevco, Saskatchewan Artificial Breeders Co-operative Limited and Saskatchewan Agriculture, made a significant input into animal reproduction studies in the province.

A considerable amount of time was committed to work on national and provincial advisory councils associated with each of the animal performance evaluation programs.

The branch was involved in one international project on wildlife farming in New Zealand and saw the use of frozen Canadian elk semen used to produce hybrid calves on New Zealand deer farms.

The beef cattle unit organized sire workshops and a three day provincial beef cattle production seminar. A new publication entitled "Finishing Cattle On The Family Farm" was distributed to 15,000 producers. The new Federal-Provincial Beef R.O.P. program was implemented and 450 producers were enrolled, an increase of 19 over the previous year

Four beef test stations operated during the year and 418 bulls were tested. The beef cattle progeny test program enrolled its first two bulls onto the program.

The Dairy Herd Analysis Service program, in addition to providing production records, provides optional herd management data on reproduction, somatic cell count and a very comprehensive nutrition program. There were 35 herds on the supervised option and 247 herds on the owner-sampler option of the D.H.A.S. program.

During the winter of 1982-83, 30 meetings were held throughout the province to discuss the D.H.A.S. program and topics on dairy production. A policy to progeny test young dairy sires in the province was dropped.

The Problem Wildlife Unit maintained a sustained extension and advertising pressure for control of a variety of pests, parasites and "nuisance" animals.

Protection of cattle, and some other types of livestock, from biting insects and parasites continues to be of concern. While black fly problems in Northeastern Saskatchewan were substantial in 1982 and control was somewhat less than adequate, permission for extended use of insecticide was sought and supported by two years of research

(1981 and 1982) which was funded by Saskatchewan Agriculture. Warble fly infestation levels were very low in 1982 (about 600 animals in 300,000 marketed in the inspection period). Louse control procedures are advocated co-incident with sound fall warble control practices and appear to be having an increased effect on this additional cause of losses to cattlemen.

Coyote predation on sheep is substantially controlled by a variety of techniques (food aversions, use of Komondor guard dogs, electric fences) and is supplemented by special hunting permits and limited use of poison. This program is operated within a wildlife management plan, where coyotes harvested by trapping and hunting during the established fur season are a substantial source of revenue to licensed trappers.

Barn rats, mice, garter snakes, risk due to rabies vectors (skunks and bats) and such "nuisance birds" as house sparrows and magpies are responsible for a substantial number of requests for advice. This advice or demonstrations on control of the animals involved provides reasonable improvement in the quality of life on farmsteads.

Advice on coping with poisonous plants in pasture and forage stands is also handled by the Problem Wildlife Unit.

Requests for extension services and information increased during the period under review.

A significant portion of the extension activities centered around nutrition and management of the breeding herd. A moderate increase in feed testing was noted amongst swine producers with many requesting the use of least cost ration formulation for better feed utilization and the costing of alternate feed sources.

In addition to the normal extension programs and meetings, a provincial trade show and swine seminar were held. Swine Design and the Swine Symposium attracted approximately 700 and 240 producers respectively, with attendance up from other years.

In addition to the normal press releases, eight fact sheets on swine production were developed for handout to producers as a source of information.

The number of hogs tested under the Record of Performance and swine ultrasonics programs decreased slightly from 8,724 animals tested in 1981 to 8,101 in 1982. The decline in testing was in the female portion while the testing of boars increased by approximately 15%. The use of the R.O.P. test station continued at or near full capacity. To aid in the promotion and the use of performance tested stock, a brochure titled "Swine Herd Improvement Breeders Map" was prepared and made available to producers.

A total of 43 sheep producers were enrolled in R.O.P. program with 54 flocks. These flocks totalled 2,421 ewes with 3,710 lambs born. A total of 137 farm calls were made for this service. At the R.O.P. Ram Test Station, 36 rams from 14 producers were tested. Emphasis is being placed on extension, both in nutrition and R.O.P. sheep programmes.

A total of 11 issues of the "Latest in Research" on sheep were distributed to the department's extension professionals. Three "Sheep Topics" were produced and distributed to sheep producers in the province. Other publications on sheep production have been supplied to new and prospective producers, schools, 4-H clubs and ag. reps.

The Feed Testing Service, in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan, is working well. The purchase of an Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer by the University has removed the bottleneck in protein, calcium and phosphorous analyses. The turn-around time has been reduced as a result and producers can expect regular analysis results of their feed sample in 7-14 days. A total of 5,800 feed samples were analyzed (for 5-6 analysis/sample).

A computerized least cost ration formulation service is an integral part of the nutrition advisory service. The specialists promoted the feed testing program through assistance in collecting samples and demonstrated the benefit of the concept through a once only gratis feed analysis plus application of the least cost computer ration program to a number of producers testing their feed for the first time.

Conservation and Development Branch

"The branch is responsible for programs to improve conservation, control and utilization of soil and water resources on farmland."

I. Flood Control and Drainage

Flood Control and Drainage for Organized Groups

1. General

The branch administers The Conservation and Development and Watershed Association Acts under which organized groups, farmers and agencies, may receive assistance for the development of flood control and drainage projects. Engineering and administrative services are provided for project investigations, design, operation, maintenance and organizational activities. Financial assistance is provided for construction and maintenance.

In 1982 the branch received requests to investigate twenty-six new project areas. Status of flood control and drainage requests are as follows:

- 113 project petition requests under investigation, survey or design,
- 57 project requests received from conservation area authorities and watershed associations under investigation,
- 58 projects have designs completed and are awaiting local approvals,
- 82 projects were under construction,
- 97 projects are under maintenance services.

2. Major Projects

(a) The Erwood North Flood Control Project is located approximately 5 kilometres north of Erwood.

A contract was awarded in the fall of 1981 for construction of the major works of the project. The project works involved 9.5 kilometres of drainage channel, associated road dykes and the installation of associated structures. In 1982 the main work items involved approximately 35 000 cubic meters of excavation, road dyke construction and the installation of 9 structures. Construction of the project was generally completed with minor trimming, cleanup and grassing to be undertaken in 1983.

(b) St. Gregor South Flood Control Project is located approximately 10 kilometres northwest of Leroy.

Work was generally completed on the first phase of a two year contract. The main items of work undertaken in 1982 involved approximately 82 000 cubic metres of excavation, spoil levelling and the installation of 19 structures.

A contract was also awarded in November, 1982 for construction of the second phase of the project. Some materials were purchased, however, no construction was undertaken. It is anticipated construction will be completed on the project in 1983

(c) The Cay Flood Control Project is located approximately 5 kilometres west of Beatty.

A contract was awarded in August, 1982 for the construction of approximately 11.5 kilometres of drainage channel and the installation of appurtenant structures. The main items of work completed on the project in 1982 involved approximately 18 000 cubic meters of excavation, the purchase of structure materials and partial construction of 9 structures. It is anticipated work will be completed on the project in 1983.

(d) The Crooked Hill Creek Project is located approximately 10 kilometres northwest of Canora.

In 1982 work continued on the first two sections of the project. Only minor excavation work was undertaken in 1982 with the major work items being spoil levelling, installation of one bridge and 98 appurtenant structures. Work on this phase of the project will be completed in 1983.

3. Maintenance Program

Local organizations during the year undertook $283,000 in maintenance activities. The branch assisted 59 organizations with these activities by providing grants amounting to $192,600. In total 97 projects were maintained.

4. Activities of Local Organizations

Of the 115 organized conservation and development areas and 5 organized watershed association boards, 95 are considered "active" and are either operating and maintaining their works or are in the process of developing proposed works. The local organizations are responsible for 2 655 kilometres of flood control and backflood irrigation works.

5. Rural Municipality Channel Clearing

The purpose of the program is to assist rural municipalities to undertake channel clearing and obstruction removal and to maintain existing drainage ditches which are the responsibility of the municipalities. Thirty projects were authorized during the year and seventeen expenditure claims were received with the department paying $58,150 to ten rural municipalities.

6. Erosion Control

This program provides technical and financial assistance to encourage control of water erosion and gully stabilization. During the year fifty-five individuals applied for assistance, thirty-two requests were approved, three requests were rejected and the remainder were still in various stages of review or design. Sixteen individuals submitted expenditure claims, with the department paying $36,250 in assistance.

II. Special Projects

Engineering studies involving investigations, surveys, designs or studies were provided on the following sections of the Qu'Appelle:

- Mission-Katepwa Channel
- Evans Marsh Fish Nursery
- Echo-Mission Channel
- Craven to Pasqua Lake Channel
- Last Mountain Creek diversion
- Eyebrow Lake
- Valeport Marsh
- Upper Qu'Appelle Channel
- Minor Channel Improvements.

Construction work was undertaken on the Echo-Mission Channel and the Evans Marsh Fish Nursery. Other minor construction works were undertaken in various locations in the Qu'Appelle.

The special projects section is responsible for maintenance work in the Qu'Appelle. Erosion control and repairs to various structures were undertaken.

Under the urban flood control program, investigational services, engineering studies, surveys, and designs were provided to 12 urban centres. Construction work was undertaken on projects for the Hamlet of Lac Vert, the Villages of Paradise Hill and Lintlaw, and the Town of Canora.

In 1982 investigations, surveys, studies or designs were undertaken on various projects in the Souris Implementation Program. Investigations and surveys continued on farmstead relocations.

III. Irrigation Development

(a) Individual Irrigation

During the year, 171 new applications for assistance were received. Engineering inspections were undertaken on 202 projects and field surveys were completed for 162 developments.

Surface irrigation construction by private individuals was completed by employing private contractors. Earth was moved for surface irrigation development of 42 acres. Installation of sprinkler systems resulted in 8,662 acres being developed. Under the financial assistance policy, $326,031 was released in the form of grants to 139 individuals.

(b) Group Irrigation

Capital works amounting to $898,973 was undertaken on six projects. Minor work was done on the Miry Creek and Grainland Irrigation Projects. Land grading for renovation of 31 acres was done on the Spangler Irrigation Project. Construction of the main supply works for development of approximately 3,400 acres was completed on the Moon Lake Irrigation Project. Construction of the main supply works for development of approximately 3,000 acres was completed on the Macrorie Irrigation Project. Approximately 914 m of drain was relocated on the Ponteix Irrigation Project.

(c) South Saskatchewan River Irrigation Project (SSRIP)

Investigational services including preliminary and construction surveys were provided to 34 individuals for irrigation development. Development during the year resulted in a net increase of 1,345 acres. Total development on the project to March 31, 1983 is 39,369 acres which is approximately 83% of the potential area.

The department spent $99,346 on works to control canal seepage and installing water supply points in the irrigation district. The South Saskatchewan River

Irrigation District No. 1 (SSRID #1) provided services to the branch for capital and maintenance works on a custom work basis.

(d) Sewage Effluent Irrigation

Fifteen new requests for technical assistance were received. Investigations were provided to 12 urban centres and associated farmers regarding the possible use of sewage effluent for irrigation purposes. Several investigations were due to Saskatchewan Environment regulations affecting lagoons. Construction of works to irrigate approximately 1,600 acres was completed on the Moose Jaw Effluent Project by the City of Moose Jaw. To date fourteen urban centres are actively utilizing sewage effluent for irrigation purposes.

IV. Operation and Maintenance of Reservoirs and Irrigation Supply Canals

Expenditures on operation and maintenance programs involving reservoirs and main canals amounted to $50,100. This included maintenance to the east side main canal and pumpsite and west side main canal on the SSRIP.

In 1982, 17,413 acre-feet of water was provided to the Saskatchewan Water Supply Board, through the main works of the SSRIP for the Saskatoon-Southeast Water Supply (SSEWS) system. By an agreement with the Water Supply Board, Saskatchewan Agriculture has been allocated water for irrigation. By sub-agreements, water is provided to irrigation farmers along the system. To year end, 61% was allocated for irrigation. During the year $407,590 was paid to the Water Supply Board to cover Saskatchewan Agriculture's portion of operation, maintenance and construction costs of the SSEWS.

V. Revolving Fund

(a) Dugout Pumping

During the year a total of 542 dugouts and 15 urban centre reservoirs were pumped under the Emergency Dugout Pumping Policy.

(b) Earthwork

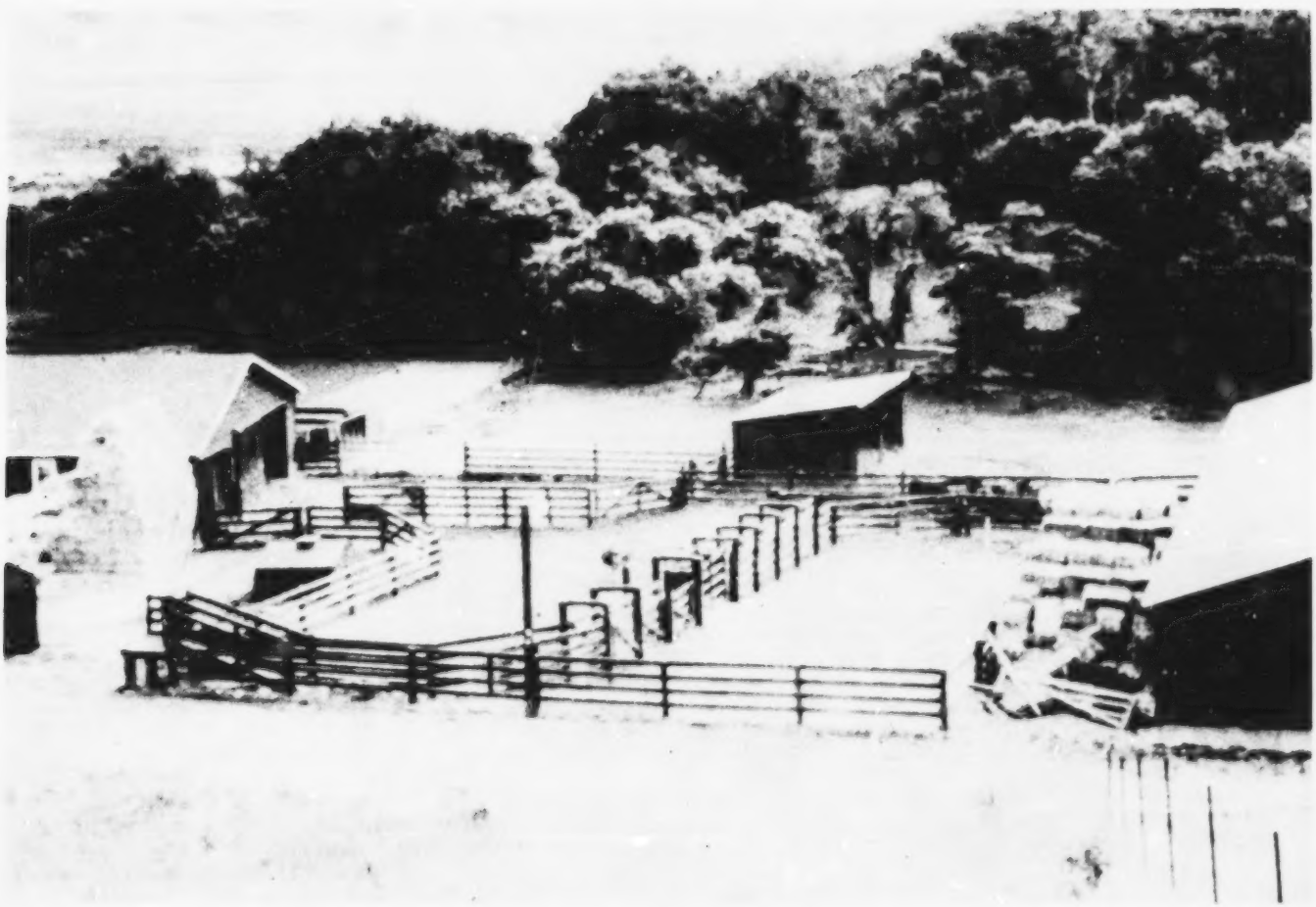
Forty-three livestock pollution control projects were constructed in the Qu'Appelle Basin as part of the Qu'Appelle Implementation Program for the Family Farm Improvement Branch.

(c) Structures

The structures program consisted of construction of works on Wolverine Lake, Upper Qu'Appelle, Lumsden, and Yorkton flood control projects, and Moon Lake and Macrorie irrigation projects. Maintenance work was carried out on Buffalo Pound and Avonlea storage reservoirs and several flood control projects in the Nipawin and Carrot River areas.

(d) Community Pastures

Development and maintenance work was undertaken on provincial community pastures for the Lands Branch. Work done included approximately 6,100 acres of breaking or rebreaking, over 11,000 acres of working down and 9,000 acres to forage. In addition 8,200 acres were seeded to cereal crops to provide ground cover or grazing.



Lands Branch

"The Lands Branch administers provincial land designated for agricultural production. As of March 31, 1983, these lands consisted of 7,711,095 acres."

Some 7,636 grazing leases were in effect covering 5,904,846 acres. Of this area 505,909 acres are leased to P.F.R.A. for use in their pasture program. There are also 1,360 cultivation leases covering 294,749 acres of land, 1,124 hay and fodder leases covering an additional 167,693 acres and the remaining lands administered include those held under sale agreement, other types of leases, 789,126 acres utilized in the Provincial Community Pasture program and 371,953 acres of vacant Crown land.

Lands remain vacant because of low productivity, inaccessibility, isolation, poor drainage, severe topography, stoniness or excessive clearing costs.

Lease Dispositions

There were 171 tentative allocations made with 71 allocations appealed and 54 allocations confirmed by the Appeal Board. The allocation of new leases was suspended early in the fiscal year pending a review of the allocation and appeal process.

Sales

The Crown land sale policy provided for the sale of provincial land to the leaseholder. Land is not sold when: classed as critical wildlife habitat; adjacent to a lake or river; environmentally sensitive; has production problems (e.g. salinity, flooding) or is required for public use (e.g. gravel). During the fiscal year 110 quarters were sold to lessees, of these two were irrigation sales, 16 were cultivation sales and 92 were grazing land sales.

Grazing Lease Improvement Program

Lessees applying under this program were contacted by a land representative who authorized development on areas considered suitable. In addition to soil type, topography and other limiting factors, consideration was given to the importance of the area for wildlife and other uses.

The policy provided for a maximum payment of $105 per acre for clearing and breaking, $20 per acre for breaking on leases not requiring clearing, and $22 per acre for working down, breaking, root picking and seeding to perennial forage. When specifically approved, up to $7 per acre was provided for spraying with herbicides. Under this program in 1982-83 the branch spent $1,172,248: to clear 8,297 acres; to break 13,135 acres; to work down 13,248 acres; to seed to forage 11,104 acres and to spray 581 acres. In total 46,365 acres were improved.

Cultivation Lease Improvement Program

The maximum payment of combined clearing and breaking was $120 per acre and $20 per acre for breaking where clearing was not required. There was an additional $15 per acre allowance to the lessee for working down.

In 1982-83, $195,690 was spent for land development on cultivation leases for the following: 1,464 acres cleared; 2,113 acres broken and 2,141 miscellaneous development acres. In total 5,718 acres were improved.

Community Pasture Operations

The Lands Branch operated 54 cattle pastures which carried 74,644 head of adult cattle plus 47,702 calves from 2,998 patrons. Of the 42,261 breeding cows in the pasture, 524 were entered in artificial insemination programs.

The department also operated three provincial community sheep pastures located at Fairholme, Mortlach and Tompkins. Forty-two patrons pastured 5,627 ewes and 1,531 lambs.

Including the cost of spraying for brush control $401,154 was spent in 1982-83 on capital construction and land development for provincial pastures.

Lebret Training Farm

The 1982 Lebret Farm operation consisted of approximately 775 acres of crop land, 700 acres of perennial forage and a 100 head cow herd. Some of the farm land was leased for a one year term to local farmers for cropping purposes.

Program Revenues

The land resource administered by Lands Branch provided $17,390,168 in revenue in 1982-83 in the form of rentals, fees, sales, interest and transfer payments from Canada.

Plant Industry Branch

"The branch is responsible for the promotion, development, production, and protection of field, forage, horticulture and honey crops in the province."

A staff of agricultural specialists work closely with other branches of the department, Agriculture Canada, universities, industry and other related agencies to provide guidance in the development of crop production and protection programs and to provide pertinent information to farmers. The staff also acts in a consulting capacity to the agricultural industry and other departments of government in the development of policies and programs to promote increased and more efficient crop production.

I. Crop Production Services

1. Cereal and Oilseed Crops

The cereal and oilseeds specialist is responsible for interpreting and disseminating results of research and providing consultation and advisory services to clients. Along with these duties several programs are initiated and carried out by the specialist. They are listed and described briefly below:

Programs

- The publication entitled "Varieties of Grain Crops for Saskatchewan" was revised. Of the 100,000 copies printed 30,000 were distributed to the extension staff in the province in early January. The remaining 70,000 copies were distributed directly to farmers as an insert to the February issue of Farm Light & Power.
- A Pedigreed Seed Directory was prepared with 75,000 copies being distributed as an insert to the February issue of Farm Light & Power and to extension staff.
- This is the first year that the distribution of the Varieties of Grains Crops and the Pedigreed Seed Directory were synchronized.
- A seed cleaning workshop was held in Tisdale in March. About 200 producers attended. A proceedings was printed.

"Weed control begins with Clean Seed" was the theme of a Saskatchewan Agriculture display used during the Weed Fair Series.

The activities of the Stock Seed Committee were reduced this year because of the increased activity by SeCan and Cen Alta Seeds Limited. About 80 applications for probation were approved. Thirty applications for Breeder Seed were processed.

The National Canadian Seed Growers' Association Conference was hosted by Saskatchewan in 1982.

Working Together with Farm Organizations

- Saskatchewan Branch Canadian Seed Growers' Association.
- Flax Growers Western Canada.
- Canola Council of Canada.

Regulatory

- Thirty-two Seed Dealers' licences and 41 Seed Dealers Agents' licences were issued.

2. Forage Crops

Programs

A. Forage Extension

To make farmers aware of optimum management practices for forage production, the Forage Crops Specialist co-ordinated revisions of the Saskatchewan Forage Crops Recommendations bulletin. Sixteen thousand copies of this publication were distributed through Regional Extension Services and agribusiness.

The Forage Crops Specialist also assisted Regional Extension staff in establishing the project design and obtaining seed for FarmLab projects located throughout the province.

B. Canadian Forage Seed Project Seed Distribution

The following foundation forage seed was distributed to Saskatchewan seed growers on behalf of the Canadian Forage Seed Project for planting in 1983:

Crop Kind and Variety	Amount (kg)
Altai Wild Ryegrass — Prairieland	200
Bromegrass — Carlton	100
Timothy — Climax	440
Alfalfa — Algonquin	440
Angus	75
Beaver	340
Rambler	515
Bird's-foot Trefoil — Leo	50
Sweet Clover — Yukon	275

C. Alfalfa Seed and Leafcutter Bee Extension

The Forage Crops Specialist assisted the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers' Association in organizing the First International Symposium on Leafcutting Bee Management which was held in Saskatoon on August 16-18/82.

Representatives of 13 countries were in attendance and about 250 people, many of whom were Saskatchewan farmers, took part in the symposium.

D. Service to Farm Organizations

The Forage Crops Specialist assisted in hosting the National Canadian Seed Growers' Convention in July 1982 as well as the SeCan National Convention in February 1983.

The Forage Crops Specialist also served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers' Association, Secretary of the Canadian Alfalfa Seed Council and as a Provincial Director with SeCan Association.

3. Special Crops

Special crop demonstrations were carried out at fifty-two locations in the province. Sunflowers, chickpeas, fibre flax, fababeans, silage corn and sorghum were included.

II. Crop Protection Services

1. Weed Control

The Weed Control Policy, which provides 50 percent cost sharing of approved weed control projects was continued. The department's share of the program cost was $111,297.19 in 1982-83.

2. Pest Control

A. Insect Surveys — Saskatchewan Agriculture conducts a number of insect surveys on an annual basis in an attempt to alert agricultural producers, insecticide suppliers and extension personnel of the occurrence of insect infestation prior to the occurrence of any such infestation.

(i) Grasshoppers — an extensive survey of adult grasshopper populations during the fall of 1981 indicated that grasshopper infestations were increasing both in terms of density and the total acreage covered. It is estimated that 2 to 3 million acres of cropland required treatment with insecticides to control grasshoppers during 1982.

(ii) Cutworms — a program was initiated in 1982 to monitor redbacked cutworm and pale western cutworm populations using pheromone traps.

(iii) Bertha Armyworms — Saskatchewan Agriculture in conjunction with Canada Agriculture monitored for this insect throughout Northeast and Northwest Saskatchewan. Economic infestations of Bertha armyworm were minimal in 1982.

(iv) Sunflower Head Moth — Saskatchewan Agriculture in conjunction with Canada Agriculture monitor for this insect in Southeast Saskatchewan and in the Outlook district. Infestations of this insect were minimal in 1982.

B. Laboratory Services — Saskatchewan Agriculture provides specialist laboratory services for insect identification from samples submitted by regional extension personnel and the general public. In 1982 there were in excess of 1,000 inquiries. Approximately 80% of these inquiries were related to insects on shrubs, trees and garden plants.

C. Vertebrate Control

(i) Rats — a continual effort to establish a province-wide rat eradication program resulted in all but 15 municipalities joining the program in 1982.

3. Pesticide Safety

General

The department continues to support and encourage the careful and judicious use, distribution and handling of pest control products important to the Saskatchewan economy. General pesticide management is implemented through a combination of two approaches. The first is the regulatory or compliance approach where the general guidelines of safe and proper pesticide handling are outlined in the Pest Control Products (Saskatchewan) Act and Regulations. The second is the development of safe pesticide use and handling information to deliver to the public, extension and resource personnel and product users.

Compliance

The Pest Control Products Regulations were amended to more clearly designate the meaning of pesticide. Every control product that is registered under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada), is incorporated in these regulations and designated as a pesticide for the purposes of the Act. This addition will help the public know what pest control products are governed by the Act and Regulations. The record-keeping system for persons required to hold a pesticide applicator permit was updated. Better and more accurate service will result when the system is fully operational.

Training and Information

Exchange of pesticide safety and regulatory information takes place at the Canadian Association of Pesticide Control Officials (CAPCO). Saskatchewan has input into Canadian regulatory decisions through CAPCO. Saskatchewan contributes to CAPCO's disposal procedures and education, training and licencing sub-committees. An objective is to develop and maintain a nation-wide approach to pesticide management. The groundwork for a pesticide applicator training course was developed. A comprehensive course for applicators will help ensure environmental and human health protection.

4. Plant Pathology

Saskatchewan Agriculture provided specialized technical support services, through the Crop Protection Laboratory, to the continuing Dutch Elm Disease (DED) surveys executed by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, and the cities of Regina and Saskatoon. No new case of the disease was detected in 1982.

Three survey tours of alfalfa crops for the presence of Verticillium wilt disease were undertaken in the south west of the province. Samples were obtained from 15 locations and tested for the disease. Results were negative.

In co-operation with Agriculture Canada Research Station, Winnipeg, data was collected on the occurrence of leaf stripe disease in barley crops. Infection was confined to the 2-row variety Summit where the maximum rate of infection found was 5.0%.

Over 620 samples were received for diagnosis in the Crop Protection Laboratory. An increase in the proportion of field crop enquiries handled served to emphasize the importance of the service to Regional Extension personnel. During the year, the laboratory was relocated to new purpose-designed accommodation at 3211 Albert Street, Regina.

Extension activities included input to radio broadcasts (20) and television broadcasts (3), and a major presentation at the Seed Cleaning Workshop, Tisdale. Regular contributions were made to the department's Crop Protection Newsletter, of which seven issues appeared during the crop season. The annual publication "Cereal and Oilseed Seed Treatments" was revised and re-issued.

III. Soil Services

During 1982 the soil conservation bulletin "Save the Soil" was revised and reprinted. There appears to be a growing awareness among farmers and farmer organizations of the need to care for our soils. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture sponsored a soil conservation workshop in Ottawa in December highlighting this awareness concern. The slide tape video on "Soil Care" was finalized in co-operation with Communications Branch.

The re-instated water erosion control policy, providing financial and technical assistance to farmers, involved the soil specialist in investigation and extension work. Through the Conservation and Development Branch Assistance Policy for Erosion Control $63,385 was spent in 1982-83 on soil erosion projects.

The soil salinity research demonstration program was continued. Tours and meetings were held highlighting measures to cope with an increasing saline seep problem. FarmLab projects in soil salinity are more numerous than any other FarmLab project and several were investigated by the soil specialist. A new bulletin, "Soil Salinity, A Study in Crop Tolerances and Cropping Practices" was published in 1982.

IV. Horticulture Section

The extension effort was aimed at strengthening and increasing Saskatchewan's vegetable, fruit and other commercial horticulture industries by direct consultation with new and interested growers. Vegetable, fruit and greenhouse crops are gradually increasing in acreage.

Saskatchewan Agriculture continued support for the Manitoba Elite Seed Potato Farm (ESPO). The specialist toured the ESPO Farm as well as several U-Pic Strawberry Farms.

A field day was held for the Saskatchewan Vegetable Growers' Association in the Prince Albert area.

Five hundred copies of the Alberta Vegetable Production Guide were printed for use by the Saskatchewan growers.

During the 1982-83 season, the greenhouse growers of Saskatchewan formed a new association — The Saskatchewan Greenhouse Growers' Association.

V. Apiary

During the 1982 season more than 86,000 honey bee colonies were in operation in Saskatchewan. The total value of honey and beeswax production was in excess of 8.3 million dollars, a reduction from 1981.

Estimates indicate that the increased value to Saskatchewan crop production through beneficial pollination was an additional 50 million dollars.

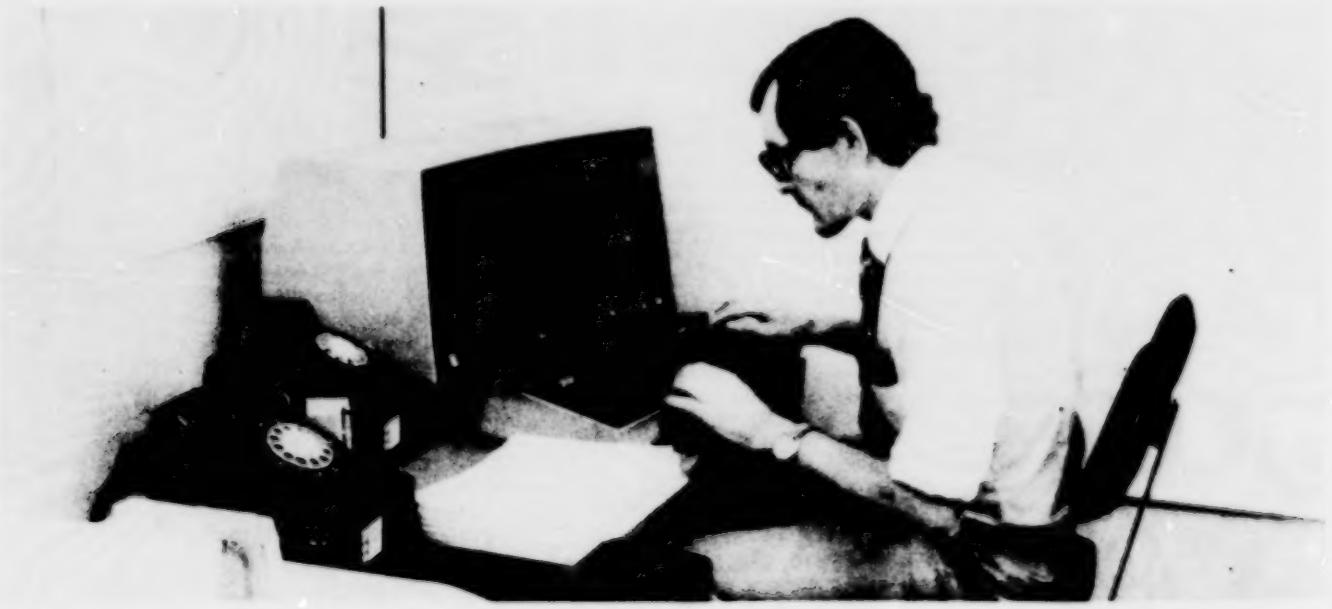
Commercial beekeeping provides direct full-time and part-time employment for an estimated 1,000 people.

The industry continues to become self-sufficient. More than 55% of the colonies operated in Saskatchewan in 1981 were winterbred, thereby decreasing our dependency on imported package bees.

The apiary section staff increased with the appointment of an assistant apiculturist in September. The provincial apiculturist was involved in the First International Leafcutter Bee Symposium which was held in Saskatoon, two leafcutter bee short courses, and the export of approximately 22 million leafcutter bee cocoons from Saskatchewan to the U.S.S.R. A chalkbrood survey of the leafcutter bee industry was undertaken to determine its status in Saskatchewan. Field inspections of honey bee colonies were performed by five field workers.

Special Programs

The branch continued to administer the maintenance of a stock of insecticide for use in grasshopper control. The insecticide was made available to producers through Rural Municipalities.



Statistics and Public Information

"The Statistics unit collects, analyzes, interprets and disseminates agricultural statistics. The Public Information unit keeps farmers and the general public informed of the policies, programs and legislation of Saskatchewan Agriculture."

I. Statistics

This year the branch and Statistics Canada were operating under the fifth year of a federal-provincial statistics sharing agreement. In addition, the branch had a number of ongoing co-operative surveys and activities which were undertaken jointly with Statistics Canada. These include surveys of farmer's seeding intentions, seeding progress and condition of fall planted crops, specialty crops, estimated yield of principal grains, fall sown crops, harvest progress, and livestock. A compilation of these statistics is published each year by the branch.

The branch responds to several hundred inquiries for statistical information each year.

Market information on farm commodities produced in Saskatchewan is published each week. The statistics branch also prepares a one-page fact sheet of agricultural statistics describing major commodities produced in the province, farm prices, livestock inventories on farms, farm population, farming income and expenses, and climate. The fact sheet is primarily intended for individuals and organizations within the province.

The Agricultural Statistics Fact Sheet (an annual pocket pamphlet), the Agricultural Statistics Handbook and the historical statistics compilation, are intended for current and historical requests of individuals and organizations. Reports showing cattle shipments are published and sent monthly and annually to about 400 people.

In 1982, the Statistics Branch continued to provide a regular crop reporting service. The reporting base was about 285 farmers and 43 agricultural representatives.

The first annual specialty crops survey was carried out with an overwhelming response from producers. The report provides detailed production and area information that was not available in the past.

II. Public Information

The Public Information Unit answers all requests for information and recommends specialists where applicable. The unit acts as a consultant to branches and agencies in the areas of publication requirements, promotion and advertising. The unit is also responsible for organization of functions sponsored by the department in regards to official banquets, openings, conferences, etc.

A promotional advertising and public relations campaign was prepared for Agriculture Appreciation Week held in the spring.

Public Information produces Inside Saskatchewan, an internal newsletter, co-ordinates the preparation and publication of the annual report for the department and also assists provincial media representatives in their quest for information on special features and regular agricultural programming.

The unit organized and prepared a major Agriculture Opportunities Conference held in Saskatoon in February involving 500 delegates from various agricultural related businesses and organizations as well as department staff, designed to discuss future and potential opportunities for agriculture in the province.

Presentations of the Century Family Farm Award program are organized through the branch. Initiated in Celebrate Saskatchewan year, the Century awards are being presented to owners of farms that have been continuously operated by members of the same family for 100 years or more.

Treaty Indian Liaison Unit

"The Treaty Indian Liaison Unit represents the provincial government in discussions with Indian Chiefs, bands councils and band members at the reserve and district levels to develop policy for the delivery of government services to Indian people as residents of the province".

Prior to the transfer of this unit to the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs, field staff responded to inquiries from the 68 Indian bands in the province concerning:

- the selection of agricultural lands for the resolution of treaty land entitlement;
- the formulation of a provincial economic strategy for Indian people that will include the development of the agricultural potential of Indian reserve lands;
- other areas such as on-reserve and off-reserve access roads, hunting and fishing rights, wild rice development and marketing, recreational and cultural facilities, and special event grants.

Veterinary Services Branch

"The Veterinary Services Branch develops programs to control animal diseases and to ensure a wholesome supply of meat and meat products."

The branch employs six veterinary specialists, an agrologist (poultry specialist) and 10 technical staff. The programs of the branch are broadly divided into diagnostic laboratories service and field services and operate under the authority of The Veterinary Services Act, The Animal Protection Act and The Department of Agriculture Act.

1. Field Services

There were 52 veterinary service districts comprised of 230 rural municipalities operating in the province in 1982-83. The grants provided to veterinary service districts under the authority of The Veterinary Services Act for travel, clinic maintenance and construction and for an additional veterinarian totalled $458,000.

The dairy and swine preventive health programs allowed approximately 300 producers in each of these industries to have regular visits by practicing veterinarians who provided advice on management and disease prevention and encouragement in record keeping. The services of a staff species specialist was available to producers and veterinarians to help solve complex problems. The budget for these programs was $232,000.

A branch poultry specialist provided management and nutritional advice to small flock owners as well as inspection service to 59 hatchery supply flocks.

Meat inspection continued in 14 domestic abattoirs with the inspection carried out under contract by Agriculture Canada veterinary inspectors. The cost of this contract in 1982-83 was $261,000 with 17% of this amount paid by the abattoir owners. The above programs are under the authority of the Diseases of Animals Act.

Under the Animal Protection Act the department continued a contract with the Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to investigate cases of inhumane treatment of animals in Saskatchewan. The inspectors investigated approximately 200 cases and the grant was $58,630.

The Department of Agriculture Act provided the authority for the Veterinary Student Summer Employment Program and allowed 17 students from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine to gain valuable practical experience working with private veterinary practitioners for 3½ months during the summer. The budget of $32,725 covered 50% of the salaries of these students.

The same act made it possible to provide a $71,500 grant to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine so that a veterinary poultry specialist and a poultry specialist from the College of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan, could provide nutrition and disease advice to major turkey, egg and broiler producers in the province.

II. Laboratory Services

The Diseases of Animals Act also provides for the services of veterinary diagnostic laboratories. These laboratories provide diagnostic service free of charge for all animal species. The laboratory located in Regina handled approximately 10,000 submissions in 1982, a 9% increase over the previous year. The Western College of Veterinary Medicine under contract provided a similar service to the northern half of the province and this laboratory handled approximately 10,000 submissions in 1982. The grant to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine for this work in 1982-83 was $335,570.

Regional Extension Services Branch

"Regional Extension Services' objective is to assist farmers to improve the efficiency and profitability of Saskatchewan farms."

Each of the six extension regions develops its own priorities for its extension programs based on the needs for that part of the province. Extension field staff consists of six regional co-ordinators, 45 ag. reps., and 18 specialists in farm management, livestock, soils and crops.

The branch works with other agencies in jointly delivering extension programs, acting as resource persons for their programs, or arranging for resources. Other agencies include: Extension and Community Relations Division, University of Saskatchewan; Community Colleges; Wascana Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences; Department of Employment and Immigration; Agriculture Canada; Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; Department of Regional Economic Expansion; and agribusiness.

I. Program Development

Agricultural committees, district boards, regional councils and local organizations concerned with agriculture are relied upon by extension staff for assistance in program planning, disseminating information, publicizing department programs, evaluating and gathering feedback on various programs, policies and concerns.

Responsibility for local FarmLab project approval was given to District Boards and regional allocations were made the responsibility of Regional Councils. District Boards and Regional Councils have become more active with this added responsibility.

II. Extension Activities

Under FarmLab, staff were heavily involved in development and design of projects to demonstrate and study recommended and innovative crop and livestock production practices. The range of FarmLab projects includes salinity control, intensive cropping systems, fertilizer response and placement, winter annual weed control, special crops and alternative summerfallow systems, swine nutrition, micro-nutrient deficiencies, early weaning of calves, growth implants and fly control.

The 1982 cropping season was disrupted by a heavy snow storm in late May. Livestock losses resulted in the south west. Wind erosion in recent years has raised interest in an alternative to the conventional two and three year summerfallow-crop rotation practices. Activities were conducted to encourage alternative summerfallow methods, extended rotations and soil conservation.

Grasshopper infestations caused problems in some areas this year. Early frost in many areas resulted in reduced yields and grades for cereals and oilseeds. The Bright Sands and Fairlight Forage Projects had a successful year demonstrating forage species, fertility and management practices for forage crops. An extensive report was prepared on the latter.

There was increased interest in the finishing aspect of beef production. Producers required information regarding custom feedlots, keeping calves longer and handling cattle efficiently through improved facilities and management practices. Other topics promoted were disease control, livestock nutrition, sheep synchronization, growth implants and straw ammoniation.

As the complexity in management of the farm business increases, it is necessary for farmers to have updated information. Staff resources were provided in the area of farm operating arrangements, tax management and financial and estate planning. There has been more interest in cost of production information indicating a concern for escalating prices in input costs.

Staff have been actively involved with community organizations showing an interest in improving the rural community. This usually involves assisting organizations in planning farm oriented activities of educational value to farmers.

Ag. Reps. also work closely with Rural Municipalities in planning and delivering jointly financed agricultural programs. These may be delivered through district boards, municipal councils or ad hoc appointees of the council.

With communications being an integral part of extension, staff continue to provide information to farmers through the use of newpaper articles, periodic newsletters and regular radio and television spots. The communications program provides farmers with current information quickly, as well as information relative to department programs and policies.

Individual farmer enquiries were up this year in most regions, as were the number of meetings and short courses. Average attendance at group events also increased. The number of FarmLab tours also increased this year.

Increased extension activities and interest occurred in the soils and crops areas (salinity, extended crop rotation, alternative crops). Interest in, and expansion of winter wheat production was high. Interest increased in beef and hogs, grain handling, storage and drying and forage handling systems.

III. Extension Policies and Programs

FarmLab program activity escalated during the fiscal year with 159 locally initiated demonstrations being established with total payments of $90,711 being made to co-operators this year.

Under the Regional Program Development Policy, 15 projects were conducted at a total cost of $41,900. This policy is being utilized to complete demonstration projects which were implemented prior to introduction of FarmLab, as well as locally initiated projects on Indian Reserves.

Forty district boards received grants totalling $290,500 to cover two-thirds of the cost of employing fieldworkers to conduct a variety of pest control projects. Four Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program districts received $5,385. The Rat Eradication Program enjoyed excellent co-operation.

Grants to 4-H were paid as follows:

Saskatchewan 4-H Council for provincial program administration	$191,060
Grants to Regional Councils	120,000
4-H Council expenses	5,500
4-H Club Grants	10,830
Total	$327,390

Under the Farm Accounting Policy, $6,100 was paid to farm accountants on behalf of 87 farmers.

The Developing Farmer Training Policy provided assistance for training, developing and beginning farmers. It included on and off-farm training, on-farm advisory services and emergency veterinary services. The latter two categories apply only to FarmStart clients. In all, $23,900 was paid to, or on behalf of 38 developing and beginning farmers during the year.

Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program

The Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program (S.I.A.P.) operated this year on a new agreement which was completed at an official signing ceremony between the Province and the Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program Inc. on March 9, 1982. The new agreement terminates March 31, 1985. The federal treasury board approval and subsequent management agreement with the Minister of Indian Affairs provides for S.I.A.P. Inc. to continue full management and delivery of the Indian agriculture program in Saskatchewan. Major emphasis is placed on developing viable Indian farms on Saskatchewan reserves.

The Saskatchewan Agriculture — S.I.A.P. agreement provides for extension specialists to work specifically with Indian farmers and Band Councils to achieve the goals of the program. Agricultural representatives work with district boards having representation from all reserves. The district ag. reps. supervise and train staff employed by S.I.A.P., including Indian assistant agricultural representatives, a horticulturist and home economists, financial advisors, on-site advisors and summer students.

The wild rice program was expanded considerably this year. Potential production is now at a level of 1 million pounds per year. However, the early frost limited production to about ½ million pounds this year.

The Indian agriculture program received $25,017 to conduct demonstration projects under the Regional Program Development Policy. An important demonstration conducted under this program was chemical weed control.

Family Farm Improvement Branch

"The Family Farm Improvement Branch (FFIB) provides extension services to rural Saskatchewan in water and sewage, farmstead structures and systems, livestock pollution control and energy conservation."

A. The Family Farm Improvement Act

Activities and Expenditures

1. Rural Water and Sewage Policy

Technical advice related to the installation and operation of farmstead water and sewer systems is provided by water development technicians headquartered in various locations throughout the province. The service is provided free of charge and is provided on the farm upon application. Activity remained high this year.

2. Community Water and Sewage Policy

This program continues to provide low cost plastic water and sewer systems to many small communities which could not otherwise afford modernization. Preliminary reports were prepared for 26 communities. Thirteen community water systems and extensions and three sewage systems were installed. Eighty communities ordered materials from F.F.I.B.

A total of $21,580 was collected for preliminary designs and technical fees.

3. Groundwater Search Assistance Policy

Under this program grants are paid to farmers to assist in the drilling and electric logging of water well test holes to determine the location and characteristics of water bearing aquifers. A grant of 50 percent of the costs of drilling test holes and "E" logging to a maximum of $1.50 per foot was available.

A total of 465 grants, totalling $199,805 was paid, resulting in 410 recorded producing wells.

4. Grants for Construction of Deep Wells

This program, introduced in 1981, was offered to assist farmers who are forced to drill beyond the 300 foot depth in their search for water. The grant is equal to one-third of eligible costs for well drilling and developing work beyond the 300 foot depth.

A total of 103 grants, amounting to $109,110 was paid this year.

5. Rural Municipal Community Well Development Program

This program offers technical and financial assistance to rural municipalities for construction of community wells. There were 41 grants, amounting to $171,114 paid.

6. Water and Sewage Materials Supply Program

The branch purchases and resells materials for water and sewage systems for farms and small communities. The materials are sold at cost plus expenses incurred in purchasing, warehousing and shipping. A material warranty service is provided at the Regina warehouse.

A total of 3,690 farmers and small urban communities purchased $1,851,301 worth of water and sewage materials from F.F.I.B.

New products are continually being evaluated.

7. Agricultural Engineering Services

The Agricultural Engineering Service Section provides a resource function to the branch, department, other agencies and individuals in the area of farm building plans, farmstead planning,

farmstead equipment, mechanization, heating systems, alternate energy source development and energy conservation and community water and sewage design.

Staff participated in provincial and national organizations including the Canada Plan Service, the Canada Committee on Agricultural Engineering Services, the Expert Committee on Energy and the Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Agricultural Engineering.

The section also carries out on-farm research and demonstration projects. During the year project involvement included the use of a heat recovery system and air circulating system for poultry barns, natural air grain drying, ground water heat pumps, farm energy management systems, chaff gathering and handling, raised flooring materials under farrowing crates, iron bacteria control by pasteurization, and community water treatment systems.

8. Home Consultant Program

One home consultant provides home design information to farm families, rural house builders and other government agencies.

There is an increased demand for energy conserving house designs and a wide variety of construction techniques. Eighty-seven preliminary drawings and 76 construction drawing sets were prepared. There was a four month backlog of requests for designs.

9. Extension

The branch provides two District Water Development Technicians and one Regional Farmstead Engineer to work as part of the extension team in each of the six extension regions. Support is provided by headquarters specialist staff.

Most individual requests for information involve water supplies, hog facilities, natural air grain drying, livestock building ventilation, farmstead planning, heating systems and manure handling.

One new bulletin and two revisions were published; thirteen "Handi-Facts" were completed or revised.

10. MEXabition

The eighteenth annual MEXabition was managed by F.F.I.B. and held in Saskatoon with the Saskatoon Fall Fair, and in Regina with the Canadian Western Agribition. Attendance was estimated at 40,000 in Saskatoon and 150,000 in Regina.

MEXabition continues to be an important extension tool for all branches of the department. New machines, methods, systems and programs are introduced with the co-operation of suppliers and other agencies.

11. Livestock Pollution Abatement Program

Saskatchewan Agriculture shares in the costs of relocating livestock facilities to more desirable locations where they were built before The Pollution (By Live Stock) Control Act came into effect in 1971 and, where there are no other alternatives to pollution control.

This year one operation was assisted to relocate and was provided a grant totalling $3,159.

12. Water Pollution Control Policy for Livestock Operations in the Qu'Appelle Basin

Under the Canada-Saskatchewan Qu'Appelle Valley Subsidiary Agreement financial assistance is provided to farmers to construct control works or relocate livestock facilities which existed prior to 1971 and which are causing a pollution problem. About 1,000 livestock facilities identified in 1974-75 are under study by specialists.

During 1982-83, water pollution control works were completed on 35 farms and grants totalling $224,748 were paid.

B. The Pollution (By Live Stock) Control Act Activities

1. Act Administration

The branch administers "The Pollution (By Live Stock) Control Act". Permits are issued for the construction of facilities for intensive livestock operations.

Before a permit is issued, approval must be received from the Departments of Health, Tourism and Renewable Resources and Environment.

Complaints against intensive livestock operations are also investigated by Farmstead Engineers, who recommend corrective measures. Minister's Orders may be issued to force operators to clean up their operations.

During 1982-83, 202 applications for permits were received, 100 permits were issued and 19 complaints were received and investigated. No Minister's Orders were issued.

C. The Agricultural Development and Adjustment Act Activities

1. Policy for the Construction of Community Seed Cleaning Plants

This policy is under the Canada-Saskatchewan Productivity Enhancement and Technology Transfer Agreement and provides for financial assistance for the construction of co-operative seed cleaning plants.

Consultation was provided to two communities regarding the size, technical and financing requirements for community seed cleaning plants.

One plant was constructed at Edam under this policy in 1982-83.

Irrigation Extension Branch

(Formerly Outlook Irrigation Branch)

"The branch promotes, develops and communicates information for Saskatchewan that reflects the needs of those individuals, groups and agencies involved in the utilization of our soil and water resources for the purpose of irrigated production."

The main function of the branch is to develop and deliver a complete extension package for Saskatchewan. The branch seeks, in many ways, to reduce the knowledge deficit of irrigation. The need for on-farm irrigation production knowledge is only the most obvious and demanding. Matters of irrigation are often very complex and require input from many disciplines and agencies to approach solutions. Co-ordination is paramount.

The program to demonstrate irrigation scheduling was extensively expanded in 1982 to include 28 irrigation sites from Prince Albert to Rouleau and Herbert. Thirty-four farmers were directly involved. The projects were a local focal point for tours and demonstrations.

The research direction of the branch is to support the agronomic and socio-economic components of irrigation and to team these results with engineering services and extension provided by other agencies, both federal and provincial. The location at Outlook provides close contact with the farm situation.

I. Services to Individual Farmers

The branch assists farmers in irrigation development and in undertaking and optimizing irrigated crop production. Programs and policies are also extended for the processing and marketing of crops that respond to irrigation management.

Irrigation adds water scheduling to farm management. Traditional production practices also need altering to complement the added moisture. The dramatic increased operating costs require more financial management. The branch combines these services into an irrigation management package and extends them directly to irrigators and through other extension personnel.

The branch program of irrigation scheduling demonstration was extensively expanded in 1982 to include 28 irrigation sites from Prince Albert to Rouleau and Herbert. Thirty-four farmers were directly involved. The projects were a local focal point for tours and demonstrations.

II. Group and Public Services

The branch hosted a wide variety of group and public irrigation demonstration services at Outlook and throughout the province.

News and radio releases, newsletter and news column articles were supplemented with radio and television interviews. Printed extension materials developed and/or distributed by the branch were promoted through extension channels. Several tour groups were accommodated for extension and public relations purposes.

An irrigation manual was initiated for completion early in 1983-84. The manual aims at providing a comprehensive focus on current technology as it relates to irrigation in Saskatchewan.

III. Programs for South Saskatchewan River Irrigation District No. 1 (SSRID #1)

An administration grant provides a ten-year phasing out of operation funding and maintenance of the SSRID #1. In 1982-83 (as year 7) this grant amounted to $151,200, representing 30% of total budgeted operation and maintenance.

A power grant provides 50% of the SSRID #1 share of power pumping costs until December 31, 1984. The power grant amounted to $36,585 in the past year.

The undeveloped acreage grant is equal to the water rate on the acreage difference between 42,000 acres and the developed acreage of that budget year (38,023 acres in 1982-83). The grant was $33,403 in 1982.

A capital replacement grant provides (until 1984) fifty percent of the amount invested by the SSRID #1 Board for long term replacement of capital works to a maximum grant of $20,000. The amount awarded in 1982 was $20,000.

IV. Research and Development

Land Development

The Land Development Policy in the SSRID #1 provides engineering and technical survey and design services free of charge plus a grant. The grants for the fiscal period totalled $198,460 and were extended on 35 projects for the improvement of 2,676 acres, thereby averaging $5,670 per project, and $74 per irrigated acre. The funding for this policy was partially cost-shared under the Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on Productivity Enhancement and Technology Transfer.

Marketing and Economics

Under the Special Crop Processing and Storage Policy grants totalling $26,266 helped to upgrade the existing scale of vegetable crop operations of Barrich Farms Ltd., Outlook.

The Alfalfa Marketing Commitment Policy guarantees a production base of over 2,100 irrigated acres, to the alfalfa processing plant at Broderick, Saskatchewan. At the same time it provided long term farmer possession and security of Crown land. With the financial failure of the processing plant late in 1982, the production commitment was terminated.

Crops and Soils

The contracted crop analysis was as follows (copies of preliminary results are available from the branch):

Saskatchewan's Potato Adaptation Trial	$23,973
Onion Herbicide Trial	$ 3,280
Irrigated Alfalfa Varietal Trial	$ 3,485

The Irrigation Crop Demonstration Policy provided for management and financial assistance totalling $1,595 to three farmer projects of cereal grain, corn silage, and vegetable production.

The Specialized Equipment Rental Policy was discontinued in 1982-83; however, the existing equipment inventory, through agreement with a private rental agency, provided rental of equipment at rates consistent with maximum use. The specialized equipment inventory was subsequently sold by tender.

The Land Reclamation Policy in SSRID #1 provides assistance to farmers to develop a sound program for reclamation of land where it is evident that without some control or rehabilitation the land will become non-productive. The process is lengthy as a detailed investigation of soil, water table, crop growth, are made to identify the source and reclamation measures required. This policy is a joint project of Irrigation Extension and Conservation and Development branches of Saskatchewan Agriculture. Individual projects were funded by each branch. Irrigation Extension's funding included a study contracted with EPEC Consulting Western Ltd. entitled "Salinity and Groundwater Study in SSRID #1". This study is available for public review. Total funding by the Irrigation Extension Branch was $27,068 in 1982-83.

Publications and Articles

Projects that resulted in publications in 1982-83 included, four irrigation newsletters; Irrigation from Surface Water; Irrigation Liability Insurance; Irrigation Information Library 1983; Irrigation Water Delivery Systems; Projected Costs and Yields of Irrigated Crops at Outlook, 1983; Can Irrigated Hard Wheat Pay in 83?; Irrigation Cash Flow; Economics of Fertilizer; Soil and Land Classification for Irrigation; Saskatchewan's Irrigated Soils Fertilizer Use and Placement; Fertigation; Drainage of Irrigated Soils; Soft White Spring Wheat; Operators Checklist for Irrigation Systems; and Irrigated Land Use in SSRID #1 1968 to 1982.

Communications Branch

"The Communications Branch provides planning and production to branches and agencies of Saskatchewan Agriculture concerning extension communication methods. A library section provides technical and policy reference research support."

During 1982-83 the branch continued its direct media service on behalf of agricultural and home economics specialists, producing and distributing voice clips to radio stations and press releases to the farm media and home living editors. In addition, a number of campaigns supporting extension programs were planned and managed for extension staff, as well as promotion of the annual farm trade show, MEXabition.

More emphasis was given to developing communications skills of extension staff of the department. Workshops were provided on newsletters design, newsletter writing, extension photography, design and use of 35 mm slide sets, design and use of overhead transparencies and participating in television productions. Communications staff also increased support to extension staff preparing their own extension communications publication and audio visual materials. Design, layout and artwork was provided for publications and other print materials.

Despite the reduced emphasis on production of audio visual materials, a number of slide sets, 16 mm film shorts and public service television clips were produced for use in support of regional extension activities. The audio-visual unit continued its equipment lending services for headquarter staff as well as providing audio visual supplies and graphics for extension staff producing their own audio visual.

Branch staff provided material for Pathfinder, Saskatchewan Telecommunications' Telidon trial, and continued to monitor developments in communications and distance education technology.

The library provided information service to staff on a wide range of policy and technical topics, searching printed and computer bibliographies for references. Interlibrary loans were a major source of reference materials obtained for staff. Dependence on this source is likely to increase as rising subscription costs force cancellation of subscriptions.

Farm Ownership Board

"The Farm Ownership Board is responsible for administering the provisions of the Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Act"

Applications for exemption from the provisions of the Act received by the board from non-resident individuals and corporations not primarily involved in agricultural production, continued to increase in this fiscal year.

In 1981/82, the board received a total of 139 requests for exemption from individuals not resident in the province and a total of 105 requests for exemptions from non-agricultural corporations. A total of 61,800 acres of agricultural land was involved.

In 1982/83, the board received a total of 171 requests for exemption from individuals not resident in the province and a total of 127 requests for exemption from non-agricultural corporations. A total of 91,214 acres of agricultural land was involved.

In addition to the exemption requests received, the board investigated 657 non-resident acquisitions this year and 373 corporate transfers. A total of 222,337 acres of agricultural land was involved.

The provisions of the Act allow purchases of agricultural land by non-resident individuals and non-agricultural corporations not exceeding ten acres.

In this fiscal year, 25 individuals not resident in Saskatchewan purchased a total of 94 acres. The average purchase by this group was 3.8 acres.

A total of 128 non-agricultural corporations purchased 1,101 acres. The average purchase by this group of corporations was 8.6 acres.

In order to ensure that the public continues to be aware of the provisions of the Act, the board undertook a modest advertising and information campaign in this fiscal year.

Marketing and Economics Division

"The Marketing and Economics Division aims to improve the economic environment facing Saskatchewan farmers and to assist them in making effective decisions within that environment."

The division works with producer and marketing agencies, department branches and agencies and other government departments in initiating, developing, implementing and evaluating activities and programs in the areas of marketing, land use, production economics and farm business management to assist the agricultural industry to achieve its earning potential. Improving the competitive position of Saskatchewan agriculture products in national and international markets is of parallel importance.

Operations Branch

I. Marketing Section

The Marketing Section provides support services to producers and agri-business in the areas of market development, market analysis, market organization and product promotion. The section assists with analysis of new markets, gathering of market intelligence and examination of existing markets for livestock, crops and food.

The section works closely with individual producers, producer groups and agricultural processing firms acting as advisors to improve both domestic and export markets. This work involves expansion of existing markets, development of new markets, improvement of existing products and developing new products.

Oilseeds and Special Crops

- participated as a member of the market development committee of the Canola Council of Canada
- provided project direction by serving as a steering committee member for a Saskatchewan vegetable industry study and an industrial potato evaluation study
- assisted the Saskatchewan alfalfa dehydrating industry in developing a slide-tape presentation of the dehy industry in Saskatchewan
- provided direction to a consulting study assessing the market potential for Saskatchewan agricultural products in the Pacific Rim area
- organized and accompanied an incoming Canola marketing mission from Japan
- provided a resource person to assist in Farm and Home Week
- assisted industry people in developing market development proposals for a number of products including flax straw, honey and yellow seeded flax
- organized tour and accompanied an incoming Japanese flour milling delegation

Livestock and Meat

- provided information to breed associations or individuals upon request for all species of livestock
- served on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Western Agribition and the Regina Exhibition Association
- hosted out of country livestock missions to Saskatchewan
- provided a resource person for other department personnel in livestock related areas
- involved in selection and co-ordination of foreign delegations to Agribition
- provided industry related information to Industry, Trade and Commerce, Commercial Officers and overseas trading companies
- assisted livestock associations in their promotional efforts
- attended various livestock related events such as Regina Bull Sale, Vanscoy Sheep Field Day, and Saskatchewan Stockgrowers' Convention
- special assignments such as Northern Agricultural development
- involved in viability of processing facilities and feasibility studies for value added activities for the province

Saskatchewan's Own

SASKATCHEWAN'S OWN tag line, "Take Home A Taste of Saskatchewan", works to enhance the viability of the Saskatchewan food industry by furthering the processing industry and encouraging the consumption of Saskatchewan food products.

Work with the processing industry in 1982 included the areas of product development, developing markets for new products, expanding local markets, and establishing new and export markets for proven products.

The hotel, restaurant, and industry market was accessed through participation in the Saskatchewan Hotel Association Convention, the Chef's De Cuisine Associations, and Saskatchewan processors exhibiting at the Saskatchewan manufacturing opportunities show. The Buyer's Guide to Saskatchewan Food and Beverages lists more than five hundred Saskatchewan products available to consumers.

Additional promotional activities included opportunities to speak and show a slide presentation explaining SASKATCHEWAN'S OWN, as well as invitations to participate in national promotion campaigns. SASKATCHEWAN'S OWN prepared 57 pages for Telidon.

Retail outlets continue to display program posters and logos.

Ongoing promotions of SASKATCHEWAN'S OWN include preparation of articles for the Farm Report shows and commentaries on participating radio stations.

Farm Business Management

The primary role of the Farm Business Management Section is to develop, organize and provide farm business management information and advice to farmers, extension staff, course instructors and other farm advisors.

The section is responsible for advising policy makers on matters pertaining to economics and farm management and for providing economic analysis in the areas of agricultural policy, programs and production techniques.

The following bulletins were revised during 1982-83:

- Income Tax For Farmers
- Land Rental Arrangements
- Custom and Rental Rates For Farm Machinery
- Farm Business Analysis — Grain, Beef, Dairy and Hogs
- Farm Incorporation
- Sources of Farm Credit
- Savings and Investments for Farmers
- Estate Planning for Farm Families
- Cost and Returns of Vegetable Production

The following bulletins were developed during 1982-83:

- Cropping Choices 1983
- Cash Rent — What's Affordable
- Designing Your Own Accounting System
- The Economics of Natural Air Drying
- The Economics of Straight Combining

During 1982-83 a sheep cost of production data collection system was initiated to provide cost of production information on sheep.

The Farm Business Management calendar was updated.

Staff assisted in the development of a Sheep Stabilization Cost Model, the Farm Purchase Program and a Northern Development Strategy.

Staff designed and carried out studies on the economics of straight combining and natural air drying, the economics of alfalfa production in the Hudson Bay area and a cost of grain production study for the Melfort-Tisdale area.

Several materials were updated in the Saskatchewan Farm Business Management Data Manual including Grain Drying Costs, Forage Harvesting and Hauling Comparisons, Poultry Production Costs, Bee Production Costs, Sheep Production Costs and various other production-economic related materials.

Several Farm Business news articles were written including:

- Cropping Decisions
- Requirements of a Successful Businessman
- Summerfallow — Is It a Good Investment?
- Summary: Pea and Lentil Study

Managing Farm Technology, a seminar sponsored by Saskatchewan Agriculture and organized by the Farm Business Management Section, was operated in 1982-83.

Staff members analyzed several policy and program issues during the year. Areas studied:

- Fluid milk pricing
- Provided information on income tax changes as they related to the formation of policy by the Government of Saskatchewan
- The SHARP program
- The Beef Stabilization Plan

Farm Business Management staff provided a number of training workshops during the year including Farm Incorporation, Farm Operating Arrangements, Economics of Alternative Forage Handling Systems and participated in meetings with Regional Specialists on the development of information on tax management.

Saskatchewan Agricultural Research Fund

The Marketing Section administers the Saskatchewan Agricultural Research Fund which was established in June, 1979. The fund consists of such money as may be appropriated annually by the Legislature, plus other money which may be transferred into the fund by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council. It serves as a capital fund from which the annual earned interest is made available to other organizations for the purpose of agricultural research in the province. A complete discussion of the fund's activities is contained in their 1982-83 annual report which is available upon request.

Saskatchewan Market Development Fund

This activity involves provision of administrative support to the Saskatchewan Agricultural Products Market Development Fund. The fund received an appropriation of $275,000 in 1982-83. Projects are approved for assistance by an inter-departmental committee involving the Department of Industry and Commerce, the Department of Finance and the Department of Agriculture.

The major objective of the fund is to provide assistance and support to various firms and organizations to undertake market feasibility, market development and product and process development projects to expand and improve markets for Saskatchewan agricultural and food products.

The Secretary of the Market Development Fund worked closely with commodity marketing specialists on about sixty market development projects during the 1982-83 fiscal year. This year's projects have involved a wide range of large and small firms.

A complete discussion of the Market Development Fund's activities is contained in the 1982-83 Market Development Fund annual report.

II. Systems and Analysis Branch

Marketing Systems Section

The Marketing Systems Section provides analysis of performance of marketing systems for farm products, including agricultural processing. The section also provides professional and secretarial services to the Natural Products Marketing Council. The council (consisting of six members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council) is the supervisory agency for marketing boards and commissions.

Activities of the council include meeting with marketing boards and commissions to review their operations, review and approval of market orders and amendments to marketing plans of boards and commissions, preparation of an annual report of council advising the Minister of Agriculture, on matters relating to orderly marketing, analyzing new marketing plans for hogs, pulses and broiler egg hatching producers, administration of national marketing agreements, and hearing appeals from persons who consider themselves adversely affected by the operations of the boards and commissions Further information on Natural Products Marketing Council activities can be obtained from the council's annual reports. In 1982-83, the section placed added emphasis on agricultural processing as a marketing system function. This resulted from the recognition of the benefits of improved and more stable producer returns, and increased employment which processing of agricultural products in Saskatchewan provides. Efforts were concentrated upon identifying constraints to processing development and evaluating methods of alleviating the constraints.

The section is also responsible for provision of financial assistance to the Saskatchewan Farmers' Market Association for the establishment and operation of markets for farmers to sell their products locally.

Policy Analysis

The responsibility of the Policy and Analysis Section in 1982-83 was to provide assistance in program development and review for the department and to handle policy issues relating to land use and resources policy, energy and the environment as these issues relate to agriculture.

Some activities in 1982-83 included conducting a benefit/cost analysis of irrigation and flood control projects, working with the University of Saskatchewan in development of project evaluation guidelines, and participation on the Environment Assessment Review Panel.

Stabilization and Market Analysis

The Market Analysis Section provides ongoing analysis of market performance and market trends both short-term and long-term.

Staff provide support for the economic analysis of marketing related problems in agriculture, and provide expertise in the analysis of current market trends and long-term potential for crops and livestock.

The Stabilization Section assists in the development and administration of stabilization for producers to assure adequate returns through three major stabilization programs operated by the department; Saskatchewan Hog Assured Returns Program (SHARP), the Cow Calf to Finish Market Insurance Plan and the Feeder Finish Market Insurance Plan.

SHARP has been operating since 1976 and provides support to 2,193 producers, producing 71 percent of market hogs in Saskatchewan.

The Cow Calf to Finish Market Insurance Plan started operation on January 1, 1983; 3,125 production units are enrolled in this plan. The Feeder Finish Market Insurance plan started operation on January 1, 1983. However, coverage was backdated to October 4, 1982; 687 production units are enrolled in this plan.

The two beef plans cover approximately 65 percent of slaughter steer and heifer marketings in the province.

The Saskatchewan Sheep and Wool Marketing Commission and The Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission

The Systems and Analysis Branch continued to provide financial support to the Saskatchewan Sheep and Wool Marketing Commission and the Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission during 1982-83 in the way of an administration grant. Personnel continued to work with the commissions on potential marketing alternatives for the improvement of the industry. Further information is contained in the latest annual report of the commissions.

Agricultural Societies

"Agricultural Societies enhance rural community life through sponsorship of annual exhibitions, rodeos, farmer's markets and other traditional activities."

There are 70 agricultural societies and exhibition associations in Saskatchewan. There appears to be a renewed interest in the formation of agricultural societies; several requests for information have been received this past year and the organization of five new societies in Hanley, Tisdale, Maidstone, Shaunavon/Admiral and Vanscoy neared completion in 1982. Indications are that younger families are accepting leadership responsibilities in the local agricultural societies.

The department continued to offer financial assistance in the form of an Operating Grant that is based on the cost of managing a society for a year. The maximum grant earnable by a Regional (Class B) Exhibition Association or Society was $10,000 and a Community (Class C) Association or Society was $5,000.

Activities

Summer or fall fairs continue to be the most popular activities sponsored by societies. A trend towards having the Country Fair extend over a two day period has grown and a good number of societies who conduct country fairs have adopted the plan. The main advantage is that it provides more time for judging, allows for more flexibility in programming and gives patrons a better opportunity to view exhibits.

Societies continue to support the 4-H program in a variety of ways such as awarding scholarships, sponsoring regional livestock shows and sales, providing facilities for shows and other social activities, providing prize money for classes at summer fairs and offering adult leadership.

Saskatchewan Agricultural Societies' Association

The association is a voluntary organization of individual agricultural societies that assist member societies in improving their programs. In March and April, one-day regional meetings organized by the Association, were held at Outlook, North Battleford, Melfort, Assiniboia, Arcola, Windthorst and Melville. These meetings continue to provide society members with an opportunity to get together to exchange ideas and discuss matters of mutual interest and concern. The regional meeting also helps to maintain a stronger bond between the local agricultural society and the provincial association.

Horticultural Societies

"Horticultural Societies promote the enhancement of grounds and gardens through educational events, competitions and by doing volunteer horticultural work in their communities."

Saskatchewan Agriculture supports horticultural activities at the local and provincial level. During this fiscal year, the Department paid out $26,060 in grants to horticultural societies. An additional $1,650 grant was paid to the Saskatchewan Horticultural Association.

Thirty-six societies were active in 1982. The projects undertaken in addition to the regular horticultural shows included lectures, demonstrations, competitions, community flower, shrub and tree planting, and judge's school.

Fall horticultural shows and the sponsorship of educational events such as courses and workshops on horticultural husbandry continue to be the most popular activities of societies.

The high cost of food, and especially fresh fruit and vegetables, is an incentive for more home owners to have gardens and a few fruit trees. There is ample evidence to show that quality fruit can be grown in Saskatchewan; hardy varieties of plums, apples, apple-crab, cherries, pears, raspberries and strawberries are available for planting.

Funds were again invested for a perennial demonstration area in Saskatoon.

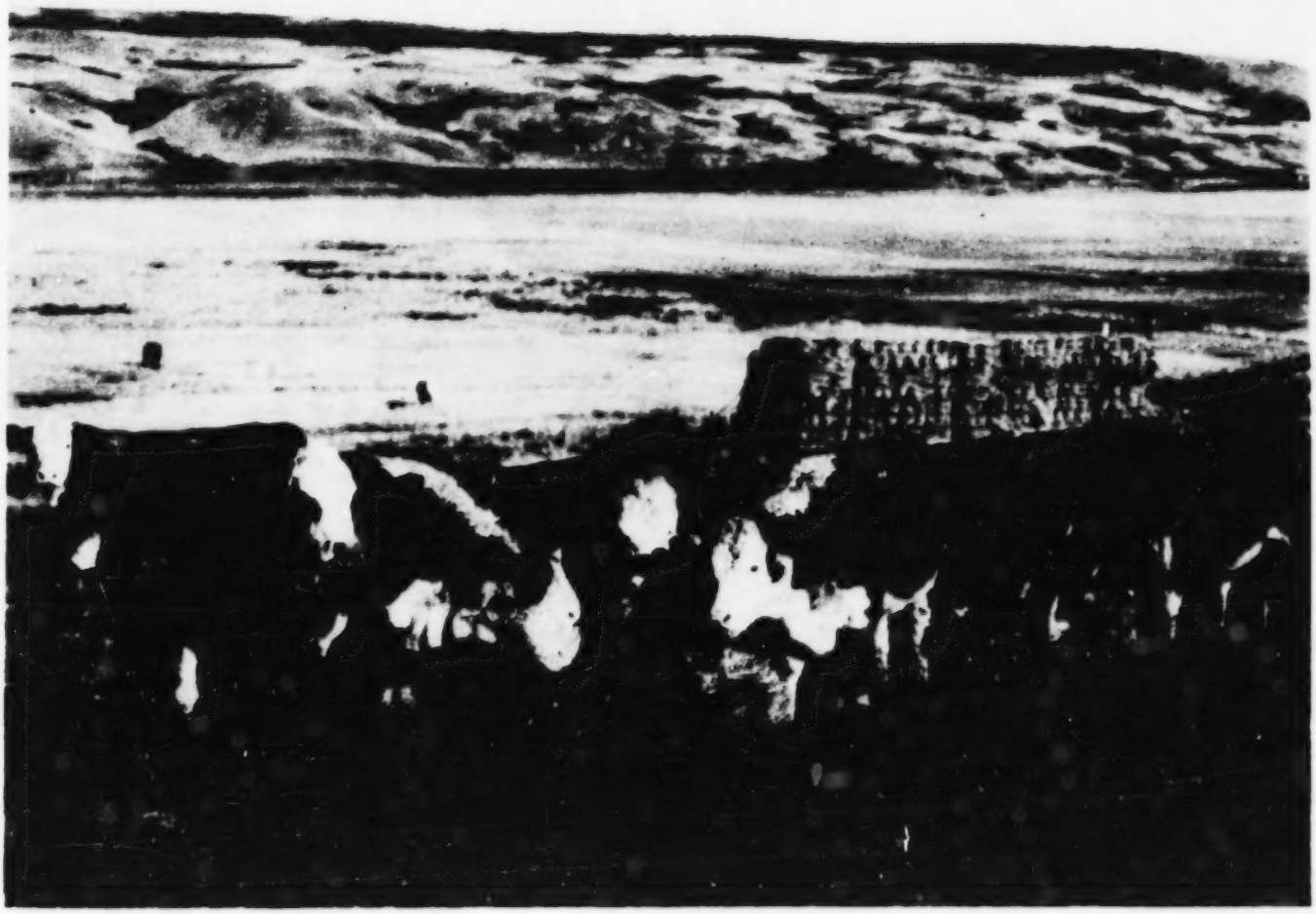
During 1982 the Saskatchewan Horticultural Association undertook a variety of projects. Continued support of the Ornamentals Demonstration Plots at the Experimental Farm in Indian Head was given. In addition a new demonstration garden in Saskatoon (Cen-Gar Project) was begun. Member societies were offered Miniature Roses as an S.H.A. promotional plant in 1982, and the success rate with these plants was very high.

The 1982 Provincial Show and Annual Convention was held in Saskatoon at the Centennial Auditorium and was a particular success. There were more than 2,000 exhibits. The vegetable sections were the most varied and of the best quality that they have ever been.

A number of important subjects were covered at the Annual Meeting. It was agreed to try to separate the annual show and the convention for a couple of years. It was felt that having both the show and convention together was a very large load for a host society to carry, and that by having them at different times of the year, some of the smaller societies may be interested in hosting one or the other of these activities. It was also felt that by eliminating the convention from the show, that the show would be an ideal place to hold Judge's and Exhibitor's Schools, two areas that the Saskatchewan Horticultural Association are particularly interested in upgrading. Therefore, in 1983 the Provincial Show with many of these schools running in conjunction will be held in August in Rosetown. The next Convention and Annual Meeting will be held in February of 1984.

In 1982, an intensive revision to the guidelines for Judges was begun. Member societies were supplied with tags, stickers, publications and other show supplies at cost. A host of resource people were provided for meetings and demonstrations.

A revised Saskatchewan Horticultural Directory was completed in 1982.



Transportation Policy Unit

1. Rail

The Unit continues to monitor and assess the rail capacity of the Western main lines. In the 1982-83 fiscal year this was accomplished by joint involvement with others.

The Unit participated with the federal government and other provinces to assess the adequacy of rail access at the Port of Vancouver and the Port of Thunder Bay. Phase I of the Vancouver study was completed in March, 1983 and Volumes 1 and 2 of the Thunder Bay study were completed in May of 1983.

The Unit also participated with the Western provinces and the federal government regarding the Terms of Reference for a study of the capacity of the Fraser and Thompson River canyons in British Columbia. Work on this project will be on-going over the next two fiscal years.

2. Grain Handling and Transportation

The Unit prepared an annual report on the performance of the grain handling and transportation system for the 1981-82 crop year.

The Unit continues to liaise with those responsible for handling and transporting grain to monitor and assess any problems.

3. Ports/Marine

The Unit monitored the passage and implementation of the new Canada Ports Policy. This included preparation of a draft Terms of Reference for the creation of Regional Advisory Councils and the suggestion that Saskatchewan be granted representation on any Council set up for ports which handle our products.

The Unit continues to monitor and assess the development of ports such as Ridley Island as well as master plans regarding the future development of established ports.

4. Statutory Grain Rates

The Unit was active in reviewing the submissions made to the Gilson consultations established by the federal government to propose measures to achieve the objectives of the federal policy. The Unit also reviewed the Gilson report issued in June, 1982. It should be noted that no provinces were invited as participants to the Gilson process.

The Unit attended the annual meetings of Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture and the Western Agricultural Conference to monitor the debate on the Crow Rate.

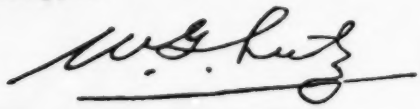
Horned Cattle Trust Fund

Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly
Province of Saskatchewan

I have examined the balance sheet of the Horned Cattle Trust Fund as at March 31, 1983 and the statements of revenue, expenditure and operating surplus and changes in financial position for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the trust fund as at March 31, 1983 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1, applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Regina, Saskatchewan,
June 23, 1983

W. G. Lutz, F.C.A.,
Provincial Auditor.

Balance Sheet
March 31, 1983
(with comparative figures at March 31, 1982)

Statement 1

Assets	**1983**	**1982**
Current:		
Cash	$ 24,225	$ 55,005
Marketable securities, at cost which approximates market	88,796	102,416
Accrued interest receivable	22	333
Inventory of cattle (Note 3)	368,112	321,925
	481,155	479,679
Investment in Saskatchewan Hereford Sales Company Limited (Note 4)	–	135,000
	$481,155	$614,679
Liabilities and Operating Surplus		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	$ 1,648	$ 4,219
Operating Surplus – Statement 2	479,507	610,460
	$481,155	$614,679

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Operating Surplus
Year Ended March 31, 1983
(with comparative figures for the previous year)

Statement 2

	1983	**1982**
Revenue		
Collections under Sections 3 and 4 of The Horned Cattle Purchases Act	$237,980	$205,160
Less: Commission on collections	23,719	20,288
	214,261	184,872
Revenue from Pathlow Beef Project (Note 3)	228,518	130,199
Bank investment interest	11,860	18,750
Total revenue	454,639	333,821
Expenditure		
Grants (Schedule 1)	239,011	169,588
Pathlow Beef Research Project – operating costs	207,121	209,561
Department of Agriculture – The Horned Cattle Purchases Act Advisory Committee – meeting expenses	4,460	822
Total expenditure	450,592	379,971
Excess of revenue over expenditure (expenditure over revenue) before extraordinary item	4,047	(46,150)
Extraordinary item		
Write-down of investment (Note 4)	(135,000)	–
Excess of expenditure over revenue	(130,953)	(46,150)
Operating surplus, beginning of year	610,460	656,610
Operating surplus, end of year	$479,507	$610,460

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement of Changes in Financial Position
Year Ended March 31, 1983

Statement 3

(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	1983	1982
Source of funds:		
From Operations		
Excess of revenue over expenditure (expenditure over revenue) before extraordinary item	$ 4,047	$ (46,150)
Increase (decrease) in working capital	4,047	(46,150)
Working capital, beginning of year	475,460	521,610
Working capital, end of year	$479,507	$ 475,460
Represented by:		
Current assets	$481,155	$ 479,679
Current liabilities	1,648	4,219
	$479,507	$ 475,460

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 1983

1. Accounting Policy

(a) The Horned Cattle Trust Fund follows the modified accrual basis of accounting whereby certain revenue and expenditures are accounted for on an accrual basis. However, collections and grant payments under The Horned Cattle Purchases Act are recognized in the accounts on a cash basis. Accordingly accounts receivable of $41,428 (1982 – $46,018) and commissions payable of $4,143 (1982 – $4,601) are not included in this statement.

(b) The Trust Fund has not been charged with any occupancy costs or administrative salaries and no provision for such costs is reflected in these statements. These costs are borne by the Department of Agriculture.

(c) Cattle inventory is valued at approximate realizable value at the fiscal year end. (Note 3)

2. Legislative Authority

The Horned Cattle Trust Fund (Formerly The Horned Cattle Purchases Account) was established under The Horned Cattle Purchases Act and is administered by a committee established under the Act who authorizes all expenditure from the trust fund subject to the approval of the Minister of Agriculture.

The purpose of this Fund is to promote research and development in the livestock industry.

3. Inventory of Cattle

In view of the difficulty which exists in assigning on a rational basis the costs of production to animals at various stages of maturity and since the correlation between costs and revenue is not nearly as close as in most businesses, the inventory of cattle held in connection with the Pathlow Beef Research Project has been valued at approximate realizable value at the fiscal year end. The corresponding changes in inventory from one year to the next have been described as Appreciation (decline) in value of opening herd.

Revenue from Pathlow Beef Project

	1983	1982
Cattle sales and natural increase in herd	$189,001	$175,466
Appreciation (decline) in value of opening herd	39,517	(45,267)
Total Revenue	$228,518	$130,199

4. Investment in Saskatchewan Hereford Sales Company Limited

The investment in the Saskatchewan Hereford Sales Company Limited represents 135,000 non-voting preferred shares of that company purchased in 1975-76 for a total cost of $135,000.

Subsequent to the year end, the company was sold and management has determined that the trust fund will not receive any return of its original investment. Accordingly, the investment has been written down to recognize the loss.

Schedule of Grants
Year Ended March 31, 1983

Schedule 1

(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	1983	1982
Western College of Veterinary Medicine	$146,000	$ 88,650
Canadian Western Agribition Association	35,000	35,000
Saskatchewan Holstein-Friesian Association	19,209	6,732
Black Fly Project	10,680	9,126
Assiniboia Agricultural Society	10,000	–
Saskatchewan Livestock Association	6,616	–
Saskatchewan Simmental Association	6,000	–
Watson Bros. Ranch (Haemophelosis Outbreak)	3,656	–
University of Saskatchewan	1,150	–
Saskatchewan Limousen Association	700	–
Milk Comp. & Nutrition Status of Dairy Cattle	–	16,000
Josh Storey	–	9,880
World Chianina Congress	–	3,000
Canadian Junior Hereford Bonanza	–	1,200
	$239,011	$ 169,588

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

POOR

QUALITY

ORIGINAL